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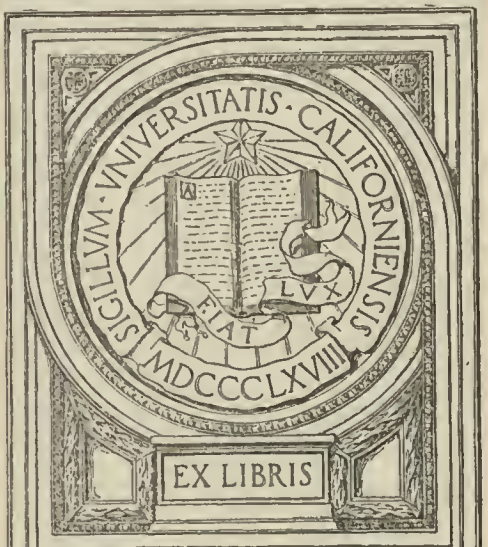

EX LIBRIS

CORRESPONDENCE

RESPECTING

RELATIONS WITH PERSIA.

Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of Her Majesty.
1857.

LONDON:
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UNIV. OF
CALIFORNIA

Carpenter

TABLE OF CONTENTS.

No.		Subject.	Page
1. Lieut.-Colonel Sheil ..	July 22, 1851	Persian Minister disclaims any intention to occupy Herat	1
2. „ „	24,	Letter to Persian Minister respecting Herat	2
3. To Lieut.-Colonel Sheil ..	Sept. 24,	Approving the foregoing	2
4. Lieut.-Colonel Sheil ..	Aug. 8,	Answer from Persian Minister, and further letter to him respecting Herat . ..	3
5. „ „ . ..	Sept. 17,	Affairs of Herat	4
6. „ „	Oct. 1,	Proceedings of Persian Government relative to Herat	4
7. „ „	4,	Troops going to Khorassan. Has warned Persian Minister about Herat. His assurances	5
8. „ „	Nov. 9,	Affairs of Herat	6
9. „ „	22,	Sadr Azim's renewed assurances respecting Herat	6
10. „ „	Dec. 29,	Russian Minister's language	6
11. „ „	Jan. 20, 1852	Communications with Sadr Azim respecting Herat	7
12. „ „	Feb. 14,	1,200 men sent by Persians to Herat. Incloses correspondence with Persian Government	10
13. „ „	Mar. 7,	Letter from Sadr Azim, and reply, respecting affairs of Herat	15
14. „ „	15,	Audience of and conversation with the Shah. Herat	19
15. „ „	31,	Further audience of the Shah. Herat ..	20
16. „ „	May 1,	State of things at Herat. Colonel Sheil will await instructions	20
17. „ „	4,	Herat. As to necessity of preventing the Persians from permanently occupying Herat	21
18. To Lieut.-Colonel Sheil ..	July 7,	Instructions from Lord Malmesbury for his guidance. Displeasure of Her Majesty's Government at occupation of Herat ..	23
19. „ „ ..	Aug. 27,	Herat. Her Majesty's Government justified in calling for explanations as to apparent contradiction between their assurances and their acts, &c.	24
20. Lieut.-Colonel Sheil ..	July 28,	News from Herat. Incloses extracts from Tehran Gazettes	26
21. „ „	Aug. 22,	Sadr Azim's explanations subsequent to Colonel Sheil's receipt of Lord Malmesbury's despatch of July 7	27
22. To Sheffee Khan	Oct. 27,	Breaking off diplomatic intercourse with him on account of proceedings of Persia in Herat affairs	29
23. To Lieut.-Colonel Sheil ..	27,	State of the question with Persian Government relative to Herat. Cannot allow any systematic attempt on the part of Persia to effect a change in the possession of countries lying between Persian frontier and British territories in India .	29
24. Lieut.-Colonel Sheil ..	Aug. 31,	Letter from Sadr Azim relative to the evacuation of Herat. Present state of his discussions with Persian Government.	31
25. Sheffee Khan	Oct. 29,	Assurances relative to Herat. Wishes to give personal explanations	35
26. To Sheffee Khan	Nov. 3,	Can place no reliance on his assurances, and cannot receive him	35

525650

No.			Subject.	Page
27.	Lieut.-Colonel Sheil ..	Sept. 17, 1852	Letter from Sadr Azim respecting Sam Khan having left Herat, and another Agent going there without troops ..	36
28.	„ „	Oct. 8,	Conversation with Sadr Azim on communicating to him Lord Malmesbury's despatch of August 27	36
29.	„ „	22,	Persian Government seem determined to persevere in annexing Herat to Persia .	37
30.	„ „	31,	Inclosing translation of firman conferring government of Herat on Syed Mahomed Khan	38
31.	„ „	Nov. 14,	Translation of article from "Tehran Gazette," and of firman nominating Abbass Koolee Khan to permanent residence at Herat	39
32.	„ „	21,	Notes to and from Sadr Azim respecting Sam Khan marching with troops to Herat	40
33.	„ „	Dec. 2,	Prince Governor of Khorassan reports the recall of Sam Khan from Herat with his troops	42
34.	„ „	Jan. 5, 1853	Communication which he addressed to Persian Prime Minister respecting Lord Malmesbury's despatch of October 27. Conversation on the occasion. Translation of Engagement of Persian Government regarding Herat	42
35.	„ „	7,	Letter from Sadr Azim demanding that England should disclaim all right or intention to interfere in affairs of Herat. Has returned it to be corrected . ..	46
36.	„ „	13,	Correspondence relative to refusal of Persian Government to adhere to arrangement as to Herat	46
37.	„ „	19,	Incloses a proposed arrangement respecting Herat, which he has rejected	53
38.	„ „	30,	Further correspondence. Translation of arrangement relative to Herat, sealed by the Sadr Azim. Hopes that it will be approved	56
39.	„ „	Feb. 4,	Letter to the Ruler of Herat inclosing copy of Persian Agreement	63
40.	To Lieut.-Colonel Sheil ..	Mar. 21,	Approving arrangement relative to Herat, and his letter to the Ruler of Herat ..	64
41.	Lieut.-Colonel Sheil ..	Feb. 17,	Threat of Persian Government not to adhere to Herat Engagement. Menace withdrawn	64
42.	To Lieut.-Colonel Sheil ..	April 18,	Answer to Lieutenant-Colonel Sheil's despatch of February 17. Herat	68
43.	To Mr. Thomson	May 7,	Conversation with Sheffee Khan	68
44.	Mr. Thomson	June 15, 1854	Has appointed Meerza Hashem Khan to be First Persian Secretary to the Mission	68
45.	To Mr. Thomson	Aug. 7,	Approving Meerza Hashem's appointment.	69
46.	Mr. Thomson	Sept. 2,	Persian Government object to Meerza Hashem's appointment	69
47.	To Mr. Thomson . ..	Nov. 16,	May appoint Meerza Fezloollah instead of Meerza Hashem. As to the latter going as Agent to Shiraz	70
48.	Mr. Murray	June 22, 1855	Appointment of Meerza Hashem Khan as Agent at Shiraz. Calls attention to his case	70
49.	To Mr. Murray	Aug. 1,	Approving Meerza Hashem Khan's appointment to be British Agent at Shiraz .	71
50.	Mr. Murray	Nov. 9,	Persian Government refuse to accept Meerza Hashem as Agent at Shiraz ..	71
51.	„ „	17,	Copies and translations of correspondence respecting Meerza Hash m	72
52.	„ „	20,	Has struck his flag. Explanations as to the cause of his doing so	83
53.	„ „	21,	Failure of M. Bourré, the French Minister, to accommodate matters	85
54.	To Mr. Murray	Jan. 4, 1856	Approving his having struck his flag ..	87
55.	Lord Stratford	3,	Letter and note addressed to him by the Persian Prime Minister	87
56.	Mr. Murray	Nov. 28, 1855	Correspondence on case of Meerza Hashem, and hauling down British flag. Shah's autographs	89

No.			Subject.	Page
57.	Mr. Murray	Dec. 1, 1855	Expects Persian Government to give way	97
58.	„ „	3,	Explanations relative to Meerza Hashem's case	98
59.	„ „	4,	"Tehran Gazette" relating to suspension of relations	98
60.	„ „	6,	The satisfaction which he demanded as the conditions of resuming diplomatic relations	99
61.	Lord Stratford	Jan. 12, 1856	Instruction of Persian Prime Minister to Persian Chargé d'Affaires at Constantinople	100
62.	Mr. Murray	5,	Modification of his terms	105
63.	„ „	8,	Active military preparations of Persia. Advices from Khorassan	106
64.	„ „	8,	Copy of despatch to Consul Stevens	107
65.	Consul Stevens	Dec. 31, 1855	Copy of despatches he has addressed to Indian Government and Mr. Murray	108
66.	Lord Stratford	Feb. 18, 1856	Translation of a letter from the Chief Priest of Tehran, containing charges against persons attacking Mussulman women	110
67.	Mr. Murray	Jan. 18,	Letters from Heratee Chiefs	111
68.	„ „	22,	Paper drawn up by Persian Minister for publication in Europe	114
69.	Consul Stevens	8,	Persians are sending proposals to Dost Mahomed Khan	119
70.	Mr. Murray	Feb. 15,	Affairs of Herat	120
71.	„ „	22,	Literal translation in English of the Shah's autograph letter	120
72.	„ „	Mar. 6,	Is going to move from Tabreez nearer to Turkish frontier. Communication from the Kaimakam	121
73.	„ „	7,	Despatch from Consul Stevens, with copy of a letter from Sadr Azim to foreign Missions in Tehran, relative to Herat and Candahar	122
74.	„ „	7,	Despatch from Consul Stevens, respecting a Persian army being directed against Affghanistan	124
75.	„ „	7,	Copy of letter pretended to have been written to Ruler of Herat by Mr. Thomson	124
76.	Lord Stratford	April 10,	Official communication verbally made by the Persian Chargé d'Affaires	126
77.	To Lord Stratford	May 15,	As to conditions which Persia must accept.	126
78.	„ „	15,	Amount of satisfaction to admit of Mr. Murray's return to Tehran	127
79.	To Mr. Murray	15,	Mission should proceed to Bagdad. Consuls to remain at Tabreez and Tehran	
80.	To Consul Stevens	15,	To remain at Tehran, but not to communicate with Persian Government politically.	128
81.	Mr. Murray	Mar. 22,	Despatches from Consul Stevens, relative to Herat and Persian movements	128
82.	Consul Stevens	20,	Article from "Tehran Gazette," respecting causes of Mr. Murray's withdrawal	130
83.	„ „	21,	Letter to Minister for Foreign Affairs refusing present of sweetmeats	137
84.	„ „	31,	Substance of news from Meshed	138
85.	„ „	Apr. 2,	Investment of Herat	139
86.	To Consul Stevens	May 16,	Approving his refusal of Persian sweetmeats on New Year's day	140
87.	Lord Stratford	12,	Translation of letter from the Sadr Azim	140
88.	Mr. Murray	Apr. 2,	Communication through the Mehmandar from Sadr Azim. Attempt to induce him not to cross the Persian frontier	141
89.	„ „	7,	Further statement respecting his differences with Persian Government and withdrawal of the Mission	141
90.	„ „	7,	News from Herat and Asterabad	142
91.	„ „	7,	Letter to Mr. Stevens from the Minister for Foreign Affairs	143
92.	Consul Stevens	9,	Troops sent to Herat	144
93.	To Lord Stratford	May 24,	If Persia occupies Herat, it will be another cause of quarrel	144
94.	Consul Stevens	Apr. 20,	Intelligence about Herat and Candahar	144
95.	Lord Stratford	May 26,	Copy of letter to the Sadr Azim	145
96.	Consul Stevens	Apr. 30,	Reports from Herat	146
97.	„ „	30,	Publication of offensive document	146

No.			Subject.	Page
98.	Consul Stevens	May 1, 1856	News in a letter from Meshed	147
99.	To Lord Stratford	June 15,	If Persia evacuates Herat, we will not insist on Meerza Hashem going to Shiraz	147
100.	Consul Stevens to Mr. Murray	Feb. 20,	News respecting Herat	147
101.	Consul Stevens	May 19,	Ditto. More troops sent to Khorassan ..	148
102.	„ „	31,	Intelligence from Herat	149
103.	„ „	31,	Ferokh Khan going Ambassador to Paris..	151
104.	Lord Stratford	June 23,	Communication with the Persian Chargé d'Affaires. Is to send him an ultimatum.	151
105.	„	28,	Has placed a memorandum of conditions in the hands of the Persian Chargé d'Affaires	152
106.	To Mr. Murray	July 11,	Copies of letter to Sadr Azim, and of instructions to Consul Stevens	152
107.	To the Sadr Azim	11,	Demanding reparation for breach of engagement relative to Herat	158
108.	To Consul Stevens. ..	11,	To forward above letter to Sadr Azim with an accurate translation	153
109.	To India Board	19,	An expedition to be prepared at Bombay to occupy Karrack and Bushire	154
110.	Consul Stevens	June 4,	Gross outrage on Meerza Mootallib, Persian writer of Her Majesty's Consulate	154
111.	„ „	7,	Explosion at Herat of ammunition of the Persian army	158
112.	Mr. Murray	21,	Defence of his proceedings	158
113.	Consul Stevens	15,	Acknowledging receipt of despatch of 15th of May	161
114.	„	16,	Respecting the outrage on Meerza Mootallib. Correspondence with Sadr Azim ..	162
115.	„ „	20,	Narrative, translated from the Persian, of events at Herat	166
116.	„ „	22,	Affairs of and at Herat. Departure of Ferokh Khan postponed	168
117.	Lord Stratford	July 16,	Answer from Sadr Azim to his letter to him of May 25	169
118.	To Consul Stevens . ..	30,	Instructions respecting outrage upon Meerza Mootallih	174
119.	Consul Stevens	10,	Intelligence from Herat. Essan Khan's wives and children said to be captured ..	174
120.	„ „ . ..	10,	Water cut off from the British Mission .	174
121.	„ „	22,	Herat still holds out. No foundation for reported capture of Essan Khan's family.	176
122.	To Consul Stevens.. ..	Sept. 16,	To remonstrate against the water being cut off from British Mission	176
123.	Consul Stevens	Aug. 12,	Delivery of Lord Clarendon's letter to the Sadr Azim	176
124.	„ „	15,	Movements of troops after the delivery of Lord Clarendon's letter	177
125.	„ „	16,	Report that speedy surrender of Herat may be expected	177
126.	„ „	17,	No answer from the Sadr Azim. Sends back the messenger	177
127.	To Consul Stevens. . ..	Sept. 22,	Orders sent to India to dispatch the expedition to the Persian Gulf	177
128.	„ „	24,	Approves his proceedings. To leave Persia	178
129.	To India Board	24,	The expedition to be dispatched to Persian Gulf	178
130.	Consul Stevens	Aug. 21,	Respecting the Sadr Azim's answer ..	178
131.	The Sadr Azim	17,	Answer to Lord Clarendon's letter ..	179
132.	Consul Stevens	23,	Occupation of Subzar by the Persians ..	181
133.	„ „	23,	Expulsion of Mission Agent from Asterabad	181
134.	To Mr. Murray	Sept. 26,	Transmitting copies of instructions to Consuls at Tehran and Tabreez to withdraw from Persia	182
135.	India Board	Oct. 8,	Papers relative to Persian proceedings on the frontiers of Khelat	182
136.	„ „	8,	Commissioner in Scinde suggests that assistance should be given to the Khan of Khelat	186
137.	To Mr. Murray	10,	Letter to the Sadr Azim to be sent on to Tehran	187
138.	To the Persian Minister for Foreign Affairs	10,	Reparation which Great Britain requires. An expedition to proceed against Persia.	187
139.	Consul Abbott	Sept. 10,	Sadr Azim's unfriendly feelings towards Englishmen	189

No.			Subject.	Page
140.	Lord Stratford	Oct. 18, 1856	Arrival at Constantinople of Ferokh Khan, Persian Ambassador	189
141.	To Lord Stratford	28,	May receive any communication from Persian Ambassador respecting reparation to England	189
144.	Mr. Murray	Sept. 29,	Bender Abbass question settled disadvantageously for Imaum of Muscat	190
143.	Lord Stratford	Nov. 3,	Has opened communication with the Persian Ambassador	190
144.	To Lord Stratford	14,	Approving his proceedings	192
145.	Consul Stevens	Oct. 2,	Sanguinary affair at Herat	192
146.	„ „	2,	Shahzadeh Mahomed Youssuf brought prisoner to Tehran	192
147.	„ „	8,	Furrah is said to have fallen. Shahzadeh's life spared	193
148.	„ „	18,	Determination of the Shah to possess himself of Herat. Preparations against the English	193
149.	Consul Abbott	23,	Steps taken by him on leaving Persia ..	194
150.	„ „	23,	Five regiments ordered to Tehran ..	195
151.	To Consul Abbott . ..	Nov. 25,	Approval of his proceedings	195
152.	Lord Stratford	10,	His communications with Ferokh Khan unsatisfactory	195
153.	To Lord Stratford . ..	27,	Approval	197
154.	Lord Stratford	16,	No satisfactory result from his communications with the Persian Ambassador ..	197
155.	„ „	23,	Progress of negotiations with Ferokh Khan	199
156.	Consul Stevens	Oct. 25,	Condition on which Persia will withdraw from Herat	203
157.	To Lord Stratford . ..	Dec. 11,	Approving his proceedings	203
158.	Lord Stratford	Nov. 30,	Further correspondence with Ferokh Khan	203
159.	„ „	Dec. 12,	Cannot prevail on Ferokh Khan to redeem his pledges	203
160.	Sir Justin Sheil	Dec. 13,	Explanation as to the Agreement of January 1853	209
161.	To Lord Stratford . ..	16,	Nothing will be added to the present ultimatum if immediately complied with. Expedition to Persia cannot be delayed .	211
162.	India Board	17,	Three Proclamations issued by the Governor-General of India	211
163.	To Lord Stratford . ..	18,	His proceedings entirely approved . ..	214
164.	Lord Stratford	7,	Further communications with Persian Ambassador	214
165.	To Lord Stratford . ..	19,	Approving his conduct	217
166.	Mr. Murray	Nov. 21,	Has forwarded letter to the Sadr Azim from Lord Clarendon, through Persian Consul at Bagdad	218
167.	Consul Stevens	Oct. 25,	Acknowledging receipt of despatch ordering him to leave Persia	218
168.	„ „	Dec. 3,	His arrival at Trebizond. Account of his departure from Tehran	219
169.	Lord Stratford	15,	Additional correspondence with Ferokh Khan	220
170.	„ „	19,	Close of negotiation with him	223
171.	„ „	21,	Ferokh Khan declares his engagements null and void, and prepares to leave for Paris .	224
172.	To Consul Stevens . ..	30,	Approval	224
173.	To Lord Stratford . ..	Jan. 7, 1857	Approving his proceedings on conclusion of negotiation with Ferokh Khan	224
174.	Sir Justin Sheil	20,	Respecting the Agreement made by Persian Government relative to Herat	225
175.	Mr. Murray	Dec. 9, 1856	Copy of "Tehran Gazette." Article respecting Herat	227
176.	„ „	22,	Substance of article from "Tehran Gazette"	229
177.	To Lord Cowley	Jan. 27, 1857	To transmit to London any written proposals from Ferokh Khan	231
178.	Lord Cowley	28,	Ferokh Khan asks for an interview with Lord Cowley	231
179.	To Lord Cowley	30,	Approval of conduct	231
180.	Lord Cowley . ..	Feb. 1,	Interview and conversation with Ferokh Khan	232
181.	To Lord Cowley	3,	Approval. Instructions	234
182.	Lord Cowley	5,	Execution of instructions. Ferokh Khan's full-powers	234
183.	To Lord Cowley	6,	Approval. Her Majesty's Government hope that an arrangement of differences may be made with Persia	236
184.	Lord Cowley	8,	Conversation with Persian Ambassador ..	236

No.		Subject.	Page
185. To Lord Cowley	Feb. 10, 1857	Approving his language to the Persian Ambassador	237
186. Lord Cowley	Mar. 4,	Incloses Treaty of Peace, which he signed on 4th March with Ferokh Khan ..	237
187. To Lord Cowley	6,	Entire and cordial approval of his conduct in negotiating Treaty of Peace	237
188. Lord Cowley	4,	Correspondence with Ferokh Khan relative to the withdrawal of certain conditions originally put forward by Her Majesty's Government	237
189. To Lord Cowley	14,	Approving his having committed to writing discussion with Persian Ambassador respecting abandoned conditions	239

UNIV. OF CALIFORNIA

Correspondence respecting Relations with Persia.

No. 1.

Lieutenant-Colonel Sheil to Viscount Palmerston.—(*Received September* 18.)

(Extract.) *Ispahan, July* 22, 1851.

THE death of Yar Mahomed Khan has been fully confirmed.

Last night I called on the Ameer Nizam, and after alluding to the death of Yar Mahomed Khan, and to the rumours prevailing of the intention of Sultan Moorad Meerza, the Governor of Khorassan, to move in the direction of Herat, I said that the largeness of the force under the Prince's command rendered it necessary that I should obtain some explanation of the intention of this Government. I also informed him that the views of the British Government with respect to Herat were unchanged; that it would allow of no interference with that city; and that any demonstration of Sultan Moorad Meerza in that direction would be followed by evil consequences, and that it appeared to me it was for the interest of the Persian Government to give me assurances of the course it intended to adopt, in order that I might communicate these assurances without delay both to Her Majesty's Government and the Government of India.

The Persian Minister disclaimed, in distinct terms, any intention on the part of this Government to occupy Herat, or to send troops towards that city, and said that I might give Her Majesty's Government assurances to that effect. The troops collected by Sultan Moorad Meerza he declared to be solely with the object of coercing the Tejjen Toorkomans, and that the Prince had already marched to that district.

In answer to an observation of mine, the Ameer said that Prince Sultan Moorad Meerza would not presume to make an unauthorised movement towards Herat, and that, moreover, orders had been sent to the Prince to abstain from any military movement in that direction. To prevent, I said, the possibility of mistake, and the consequent measures which would follow if the Governor of India were thrown into doubt of the intentions of the Persian Government, I recommended that these orders should be renewed, and that the Prince should be warned that on no pretence whatever was he to send any troops towards Herat. The Ameer agreed to forward these instructions by a courier who would leave Ispahan in three days.

I mentioned to the Ameer Nizam that intelligence had reached me of a disposition evinced by the Prince Governor of Khorassan to afford military assistance to a member of the late dynasty in Herat, named Shahzadeh Mahomed Youssuf Meerza, to regain possession of the sovereignty. Such a movement would, I said, be regarded by the British Government as equally objectionable as a movement made from other ostensible motives. The Persian Minister affirmed that this intelligence was totally destitute of foundation. In confirmation of his assertions he declared that Syed Mahomed Khan, the son of Yar Mahomed Khan, had addressed a letter to the Shah soliciting his favour and protection, and that His Majesty had sent him a firman in corresponding terms.

No. 2.

Lieutenant-Colonel Sheil to Viscount Palmerston.—(*Received September* 18.)

(Extract.) *Ispahan, July* 24, 1851.

I THOUGHT it would be advantageous to remind the Persian Minister of his agreement to give positive orders to Sultan Moorad Meerza to abstain from any interference whatever with Herat. I accordingly addressed a letter, of which I beg leave to inclose a copy, to that effect to the Ameer Nizam, and I took the opportunity of repeating a portion of the observations I had made to his Excellency verbally.

It is possible that the Persian Government is free from any design adverse to the policy of Her Majesty's Government, and it may prove needless to press this subject on its attention; nevertheless there is certainly a considerable force at Meshed, which admits of easy and perhaps secret increase from Tehran, and I therefore feel a conviction that, setting aside all consideration of English interests, I am rendering a service to this Government, however distasteful to it, in doing all I can to dissuade the Persian Government from rushing into the temptation which offers itself to it at this moment at Herat, or is likely to do so within a short time.

Inclosure in No 2.

Lieutenant-Colonel Sheil to the Ameer Nizam.

July 23, 1851.

THE subject is of so much importance, I consider it advisable to remind your Excellency of the arrangement you made with me to write to Sultan Moorad Meerza to-morrow. The Prince is young, and has a large body of troops under his command. Any rash act on his part might lead to the most serious consequences. Every movement of his will be transmitted to India through Affghanistan in the most exaggerated form; and should the Prince unfortunately exhibit any want of circumspection, the consequence would be that measures might be forced on the Governor-General of India which would be otherwise unnecessary.

I therefore trust that your Excellency, in conformity with your language to me, will issue positive orders to Sultan Moorad Meerza, that under no circumstances or pretence whatever is he to send troops towards Herat. I again repeat, that any deviation on the part of the Prince from the above course, be the pretext what it may, would have an influence over the relations subsisting between England and Persia. Your Excellency will therefore comprehend the cause of my solicitude for the speedy transmission of these orders, as had been arranged.

No. 3.

Viscount Palmerston to Lieutenant-Colonel Sheil.

Sir, *Foreign Office, September* 24, 1851.

I HAVE to acquaint you that I approve of your having, as reported in your despatch of the 24th of July, requested the Ameer Nizam to send positive orders to the Governor of Khorassan not to interfere with Herat.

I am, &c.

(Signed) PALMERSTON.

UNIV. OF CALIFORNIA

No. 4.

Lieutenant-Colonel Sheil to Viscount Palmerston.—(*Received October* 2.)

(Extract.) *Ispahan, August* 8, 1851.

WITH reference to my despatch of the 24th of July, inclosing a translation of a letter I had written to the Ameer Nizam, relative to the large force assembled in Khorassan, I have the honour to transmit a translation of the Ameer's reply.

This communication appearing to me vague and unsatisfactory, I have thought it advisable to declare distinctly to the Persian Minister the sentiments of Her Majesty's Government relative to any attempt by Persia on Herat. I have the honour to inclose for your Lordship's information a copy of a letter I have addressed to that effect to the Ameer Nizam.

In addition to the above reasons for a clear explanation of the views of Her Majesty's Government, I have further been induced to do so by having learned from two sources of undoubted authority that the Ameer Nizam had made a declaration that any attempt to subvert the authority of Syed Mahomed Khan would be followed by the immediate advance of Persian troops to his assistance.

Inclosure 1 in No. 4.

The Ameer Nizam to Lieutenant-Colonel Sheil.

(Translation.) *July* 27, 1851.

I HAVE received your Excellency's letter in which you request that injunctions should be given to Sultan Moorad Meerza. I therefore beg to inform you that his Royal Highness has been dispatched to punish the Toorkomans of Tekkeh, Serekhs, and Tejjen, whose presumption has passed all limit. Beyond this, the force under the Prince has no orders to proceed towards Herat or Affghanistan. Although your Excellency has stated that the Prince is young, and that the army under his command is large, nevertheless the youth of the Prince and the strength of his army are no proofs that he should be able to proceed on an expedition, contrary to his orders, without the commands of this Government. His orders are what I have stated.

With reference to your statement that there will be great rumours in Hindoostan; in the first place, the Prince is now among the Toorkomans, and is remote from all rumours; secondly, it is very evident that unmeaning reports have up to this time terminated.

Inclosure 2 in No. 4.

Lieutenant-Colonel Sheil to the Ameer Nizam.

August 7, 1851.

I HAVE had the honour to receive your Excellency's letter of the 27th July, relative to the movements of the army under the command of Sultan Moorad Meerza.

That communication is vague and inconclusive, and contains none of the satisfactory assurances demanded by the circumstances. If the Persian Government had desired to inspire the British Government with confidence as to the object of the large force assembled in Khorassan, it would have seized this occasion to give explicit assurances of the falsehood of the prevailing rumours, and of the absence on the part of this Government of any intention to interfere in any way whatever with Herat.

This has not been done; therefore, I have only to repeat to this Government that evil consequences will arise to the relations between England and Persia should any attempt be made on Herat, either by open force or by management and negotiation. Any movement of Persian troops to that city, on any

pretence whatever, whether on the pretext of aiding Syed Mahomed Khan or any other, will interrupt the friendly relations now happily subsisting between Great Britain and Persia.

No. 5.

Lieutenant-Colonel Sheil to Viscount Palmerston.—(Received October 31.)

(Extract.) *Camp, Cauzee, September* 17, 1851.

THE affairs of Herat appear to be involved in greater confusion from day to day. Mr. Ronald Thomson has informed me that, a few days ago, a special agent from Syed Mahomed Khan had arrived in the Shah's camp to solicit assistance in maintaining his administration, in return for the aid which Yar Mahomed Khan contributed against the Salar. No definitive answer had been given to this appeal, but it was supposed Syed Mahomed Khan's agent would be dismissed with vague, unsatisfactory professions. On the other hand, Mr. Thomson had heard, from a quarter deserving of credit, that there was an intention to invite me to concur in the despatch of a small force to Herat, with an explicit understanding that it should evacuate that city as soon as the authority of Syed Mahomed Khan should be reinstated. It appears also to be a plan of the Ameer Nizam to cause the coinage of Herat to be issued in the name of the Shah. I am ignorant on what grounds his Excellency attaches importance to this device, unless it be intended as an announcement of Herat being included in the dominions of the Shah.

No. 6.

Lieutenant-Colonel Sheil to Viscount Palmerston.—(Received November 26.)

(Extract.) *Camp near Tehran, October* 1, 1851.

THE Agent sent by Syed Mahomed Khan, the Ruler of Herat, to ask assistance from the Persian Government, has quitted the Shah's camp without being able to obtain a definite answer relative to the object of his mission.

I have the honour to annex, for your Lordship's information, a quotation from a letter from Mr. Ronald Thomson regarding this Agent. I have no doubt of Mr. Ronald Thomson's information being obtained from credible sources:—

"Syed Mahomed Khan's messenger quitted the camp some days ago, on his return to Herat. A firman from the Shah, and a letter from the Ameer, have been transmitted through this person in answer to Syed Mahomed Khan's application for assistance to enable him to extricate himself from the danger threatened by the advance of Kohendil Khan, and by the discord and disputes which had arisen among the people of Herat. The Shah, it appears, in his firman has confined himself to expressions of friendship and goodwill to Syed Mahomed Khan, giving him vague promises of assistance, without specifying in what manner or to what extent the support of the Persian Government will be afforded to him. He calls upon the chief people of Herat to submit to Syed Mahomed Khan's authority, and urges them to support his authority, threatening to punish those who offer him any opposition. The answer which the Ameer has returned to his application for support is said to convey a refusal at present to comply with his request, but at the same time a prospect of receiving at a future time the assistance which he desires, is held out to him. The Ameer has, I am told, given Syed Mahomed Khan to understand that by issuing coin in the Shah's name, and by preparing a paper to be sealed by the chief people of Herat, declaring themselves subject to Persia, the Persian Ministers may be induced to extend to him the aid which he has solicited. The messenger is also the bearer of a dress of honour, and a sword with jewelled scabbard, which have been conferred on Syed Mahomed Khan by the Shah."

A special Agent from Herat is on the point of arriving at Tehran. His name is Meerza Boozoorg, and is the same person who was erroneously supposed to have been killed by Yar Mahomed Khan.

It appears also that the rumoured death of Kohendil Khan is destitute of foundation.

No. 7.

Lieutenant-Colonel Sheil to Viscount Palmerston.—(Received December 3.)

(Extract.) *Tehran, October 4, 1851.*

THE "Tehran Gazette," of a recent date, having contained an announcement that 2,000 Infantry, and 6,000 Cavalry, were about to march to Khorassan, I called on the Ameer Nizam to repeat to him the warning I had already given that the augmentation of troops in that province without apparent necessity would excite suspicion, and, perhaps, lead to precautionary measures on the part of the Governor-General of India.

The Ameer Nizam replied that any fears of the proceedings of the Persian Government with reference to Herat would be purely gratuitous; for in the first place, the above body of Cavalry had been changed from its original destination, and directed to proceed to Asterabad, where the exigencies of the service were unfortunately very great; and in the next place, that if two battalions were proceeding to Khorassan, three battalions were now on the route from that province, returning to the capital; and finally, that the troops in Khorassan would not exceed the ordinary garrison of five battalions and 1,600 Cavalry, exclusive of the native provincial force, a number which was absolutely necessary for the maintenance of internal tranquillity and for repelling the increasing aggressions of the Toorkomans.

I believe these statements to be entitled to credit, because they have been confirmed to me from another quarter.

The Ameer farther affirmed that the Prince Governor of Khorassan had positive orders not to interfere with Herat under any circumstances, by a military demonstration, without express orders from Tehran. Her Majesty's Government, he said, might entertain a conviction of the Persian Government not having the slightest intention of sending troops to Herat, and that none would be sent. The only contingency under which Persia would desire to dispatch a force to that city would be the approach of either Dost Mahomed Khan or Kohendil Khan to subvert the authority of Syed Mahomed Khan, and that even in that event troops would not be dispatched without first consulting me.

I asked the Ameer Nizam if I was at liberty to consider this as an official announcement for the information of Her Majesty's Government. The Persian Minister replied that the well-known timidity of his character alone deterred him from making these declarations officially, but that, nevertheless, your Lordship might be satisfied that this Government would pursue the course he had indicated.

The Persian Government, he said, had its hands too full in various quarters to allow it to think of embroiling itself with Great Britain, or to render it eager for the acquisition of Herat when it saw with what difficulty the present dominions of the Shah were retained.

This moderation may be temporary, but I believe it to be sincere at the present moment.

The Ameer Nizam continuing his observations relative to Herat, said it was his intention to give every support, short of sending troops, to the Government of Syed Mahomed Khan, by nominating an Agent to his Court, by sending dresses of honour and presents, by offering exhortations to the Chiefs and people, and sometimes threats, and by preserving an intimate intercourse from Meshed with Herat. The annexation of that province to Candahar or Cabul he considered to be detrimental to the welfare of Persia, by placing a strong instead of a weak Power on the frontier; and he said he conceived the same argument would be applicable to the British dominions with reference to Cabul or Candahar.

The Ameer Nizam said that a Kajjar of some rank, named Ibraheem Khan, had been deputed to take a dress of honour to Syed Mahomed Khan.

No. 8.

Lieutenant-Colonel Sheil to Viscount Palmerston.—(Received January 2, 1852.)

(Extract.) *Tehran, November 9, 1851.*

I HAVE the honour to report to your Lordship that Meerza Boozoorg Khan, the Agent of Syed Mahomed Khan, has returned to Herat accompanied by a Persian Agent of higher rank than usual, who is the bearer of presents of considerable value to Syed Mahomed Khan.

It appears he has undertaken to obtain from Syed Mahomed Khan an acknowledgment of the sovereignty of Persia over Herat, by striking coin, and by reading the "khootbeh," or Friday prayer, in the Shah's name.

In the "Tehran Gazette," Syed Mahomed Khan is styled the "Governor of Herat," and his presents to the Shah are termed "offerings," as if they were the gifts of one of the Shah's own subjects.

An Agent has also arrived from Candahar. The object of his mission appears to be to obtain the consent of the Persian Government to his undertaking an expedition against Herat. Kohendil Khan has supported his proposal, as I am informed from a credible source, by an insinuation that opposition from the Persian Ministers would compel him to form an intimate connection with the British Government. I have as yet been unable to learn the reply of the Persian Government, but I have no doubt it will be a refusal.

No. 9.

Lieutenant-Colonel Sheil to Viscount Palmerston.—(Received January 2, 1852.)

(Extract.) *Tehran, November 22, 1851.*

I HAVE the honour to inform your Lordship that the Sedr Azim renewed to me yesterday the assurances relative to Herat given by the late Prime Minister, as reported in my despatch of the 4th of October.

It is reported from Meshed that though no tumults had occurred in Herat, that city is in a state of the utmost confusion from the intrigues of the numerous aspirants to authority; Syed Mahomed Khan's capacity offering no hope of the permanence of his rule. Each Chief acts as if he were independent.

No. 10.

Lieutenant-Colonel Sheil to Viscount Palmerston.—(Received March 7, 1852.)

(Extract.) *Tehran, December 29, 1851.*

THE Russian Minister informed me yesterday that he had taken an opportunity, two days previously, of offering advice to the Persian Ministers not to interfere in the affairs of Herat. He admitted to the Sedr Azim the claim of Yar Mahomed Khan's son to the support of the Persian Government, but observed that feelings of generosity must yield to the more powerful consideration of the welfare of this country, whether with reference to its internal or to its foreign relations. Prince Dolgorouki added, that in uttering these opinions he spoke the sentiments of his Government.

I told the Russian Minister that I was certain Her Majesty's Government would fully appreciate such friendly counsel to the Persian Ministers, which was evidently founded on a consideration for the interests of Persia.

The Prime Minister has confirmed the substance of Prince Dolgorouki's language to me.

The Persian Government has nevertheless betrayed lately a strong desire to exercise an armed intervention in the affairs of that Principality under the pretence of establishing order. I have had more than one conversation on this subject with the Persian Prime Minister, but the absence of the Court on a hunting excursion having interrupted our communications, I must reserve for another despatch the result of our discussions.

No. 11.

Lieutenant-Colonel Sheil to Viscount Palmerston.—(Received March 7.)

(Extract.) *Tehran, January* 20, 1852.

I HAVE the honour to inclose, for your Lordship's information, a translation of a letter from Meshed, containing further intelligence relative to Herat. Kohendil Khan had dispatched a force from Candahar, under the command of one of his nephews, which had already reached Ferrah, about 160 miles from Herat. This information has been confirmed by a messenger to the Persian Ministers direct from the latter city. The Prince Governor of Khorassan had in consequence summoned troops from all parts of the Province under his authority, and had publicly announced his intention of marching to Herat.

Believing it would make a greater impression to address the Prime Minister in writing, I communicated with him in that form, and your Lordship will perceive, from the inclosed translation of the correspondence which passed between us, that the Persian Government proposes to send a body of troops to Herat, should the force from Candahar approach that city.

To-day I had a conversation with the Sedr Azim on this question. It consisted on my part of a renewal of the admonition that if Persia acted contrary to the views and wishes of Great Britain, Her Majesty's Government would follow out their own policy, whatever it might be, without regard to Persia. The Sedr Azim repeated his former demand that England should undertake to preserve Herat from the Chiefs of Cabul and Candahar, and that then Persia would not interfere; otherwise, that Great Britain should agree to the dispatch of a moderate Persian force, with an engagement that it should return in a specific time. I asked him why he did not put the latter proposal in writing to enable the British Government to judge of its worth, for so long as it was only verbal it was of no value. He said he would take into consideration the expediency of doing so.

The Sedr Azim stated that, to a certainty, Sultan Moorad Meerza, the Governor of Khorassan, had not yet marched to Herat or crossed the frontier, nor would he do so without further orders. The Prince's public announcement of his intention to do so was, the Persian Minister said, merely to produce an impression by creating confidence in Herat, and alarm in the Candahar force. I, however, do not place much reliance in the Sedr Azim's declaration.

It is generally fallacious to attempt to calculate on the conduct of Persians. Still if I were to hazard a judgment in the present instance, the inference I should arrive at from the language of the Sedr Azim would be, that if the Candahar army does not approach Herat, a movement of a Persian force will not be made to that city. Should the troops from Candahar advance to Herat, it seems highly likely that a Persian force will be sent to oppose them, yet even this does not seem to me perfectly certain.

The Persian Minister mentioned, in the course of conversation, that Syed Mahomed Khan had made the most earnest application for aid. He declared himself to be the Shah's subject, and he called on him to afford the support he was bound to give to a person who had taken sanctuary with him.

Inclosure 1 in No. 11.

Substance of a Letter from Meshed.

(Translation.) *December* 25, 1851.

A MESSENGER has arrived from the Chief of the Hezarehs (Kerreem dad Khan), announcing that 300 horsemen would be dispatched for the service of the Shah, also that presents were coming from the Hezarehs, Tymoonees, and other tribes.

Seven hundred families of the Hezarehs are coming to establish themselves in Toorbet Sheikh Jam (in Persia); some have already arrived.

Kerreem dad Khan has sent 100 horse, and 300 foot, of the Hezarehs to the assistance of Syed Mahomed Khan in Herat.

Intelligence has arrived from Ghaïn that Prince Jellal-ood-deen Meerza has taken possession of Ferrah (160 miles south of Herat).

Under the pretence of hunting, the Prince Governor of Khorassan is going with two guns and one regiment, and all the cavalry, towards Sani (on the frontier of Herat).

Meerza Ahmed Khan, the Agent from Tehran to Herat, was accompanied by 1,000 horse; the horse were to remain in Ghorian.

A Hezareh horseman arrived last night from Herat, with intelligence from Kerreem dad Khan that Meer Afzal Khan, son of Reheemdil Khan (son of Kohendil Khan and Mihr dil Khan (son of Kohendil Khan) had arrived in Ferrah with a body of troops, and that they intended to march to Herat. Syed Mahomed Khan has summoned Kerreem dad Khan, Hezareh, to his assistance, and the latter had gone within forty-eight miles of Herat, where he probably is at present.

The same horseman says that Deen Mahomed Khan (brother of Yar Mahomed Khan) and his son Gholaum Khan had taken Ghorian, and that they have got about 500 horse. Fattee Khan, Syed Mahomed Khan's General, came from Herat, and an action was fought between them, after which Fattee Khan returned to Old Ghorian.

After this intelligence had arrived, the Prince Governor of Khorassan announced publicly that he would go to Herat with all his troops and guns, because he had orders from the Persian Ministers to oppose any foreign aggression on Herat. No application from Herat has been made on this score. In short, they (Persian authorities) are engaged in preparations, and troops have been summoned from Nishapoor.

The Toorkomans of Merve and Serekhs have been plundering in Ghaïn, and they have carried off the people of two forts.

December 28, 1851.

What I stated in my last letter (the above) relative to Herat is correct. The further news I have to announce is this: The hunting excursion of the Prince seems determined on; it is to last forty days, and troops have been summoned from every quarter to Khorassan. Every one connected with the Court maintains that the design of the Prince is to march to Herat. It is proposed to move on the 3rd of January. Troops are coming in every day.

Meerza Ahmed Khan, the Agent from Tehran to Herat, left this with more than 1,000 horse. But it is said that Syed Mahomed Khan sent a messenger to remonstrate against his being accompanied by so large a force. His troops have been left at Ghorian; not in Ghorian itself, for Deen Mahomed Khan is there with 600 or 700 men.

Inclosure 2 in No. 11.

Lieutenant-Colonel Sheil to the Sedr Azim.

January 11, 1852.

AUTHENTIC intelligence has reached me from Meshed that the Prince Governor of Khorassan is actively engaged in preparing troops, and has summoned reinforcements from all parts of the province with the open and avowed intention of proceeding to Herat.

This is a departure from the promise your Excellency made to me a few days ago.

I therefore have to repeat to your Excellency that a movement on Herat by Persian troops, under any pretence whatever, will not be regarded with indifference by Great Britain; should a design so contrary to the views of Her Majesty's Government be persisted in, the Persian Government must attribute to itself such consequences as ensue, whatever those consequences may be.

Inclosure 3 in No. 11.

The Sedr Azim to Lieutenant-Colonel Sheil.

(Translation.) *January* 14, 1852.

WITH reference to your Excellency's letter, in which you mention that authentic intelligence had reached you that the Prince Governor of Khorassan was engaged in assembling troops with the intention of marching on Herat, I have to state, in the way of friendship, for your information, that although as yet no orders have been issued on this point by His Majesty the Shah to the Prince Governor, and although the Persian Ministers have no knowledge of any kind of the Prince being engaged in preparing troops, or of his intention to proceed to Herat, but believe this rumour to be without foundation; still, in the present confused state of affairs at Herat, the Hezareh, Jemsheedee, and Tymoonee tribes having become rebellious, having attacked and done great mischief to the forts of Khauf, Toorbet-i-Hyderieh and Kenâbât-i-Tebbess, and carried off many persons into captivity, and the state of Herat having caused great confusion in the Province of Khorassan, I think it is not at all improbable that the Prince may have moved in that direction to punish these people.

At an interview with your Excellency on the 10th of this month, I distinctly stated, and I now again repeat it in a friendly way, that, for the sake of preserving order in the Province of Khorassan, should any attempt be made from without (Candahar or Cabul), to reach Herat and take possession of that place, the Persian Ministers will feel themselves compelled, on account of the disturbances which would ensue in Khorassan, to afford the inhabitants of Herat that assistance which they consider themselves entitled to give, unless assurances are given to the Persian Government that no foreign force will interfere with that city. As I have held frequent conversations with your Excellency, should you wish again to see me on this subject, or to ask any friendly questions, I am quite prepared to reply to them.

Your Excellency no doubt perceives that nothing has been done at variance with the conditions proposed at our conversations, and there will be no attempt to act contrary to these conditions.

Translated by
(Signed) Ronald F. Thomson.

Inclosure 4 in No. 11.

Lieutenant-Colonel Sheil to the Sedr Azim.

January 16, 1852.

THE object assigned by your Excellency in your letter of the 14th of January for the assembling of troops on the frontier of Herat, will be dissatisfactory to the British Government.

Intelligence entitled to credit has reached me that the Hezarehs have sent tribute to the Shah, with 300 of the tribe for His Majesty's service; also that the Tymoonees and other tribes have submitted and offered tribute; moreover, that 700 Hezareh families have, at the invitation of the Prince Governor of Khorassan, made arrangements for establishing themselves at Toorbet. The plea urged for the movement of the Prince Governor to the frontier will therefore be treated by the British Government as a fiction, and be regarded with suspicion and dissatisfaction.

I have already impressed on the Persian Ministers in how serious a light the approach of Persian troops to Herat will be viewed by the British Government, be the pretext what it may.

The people of Affghanistan may well be left to settle their own disputes, without the interference of Persia. The feaf or danger to this country from the approach of troops to Herat from another quarter, is either imaginary or fictitious; for what bad consequences to Persia could follow from the contests of two petty Principalities like Herat and Candahar, to which you probably allude?

Be that as it may, if Persia should adopt a course opposed to the views and wishes of Great Britain, under the pretence of securing its own interests, the Persian Ministers may rest assured that Her Majesty's Government will follow the same example. Great Britain will then take such steps as may be deemed necessary for the maintenance of English interests, and will carry out her own policy regardless of Persia. The Persian Ministers are the best judges of the expediency of provoking such a result for an imaginary benefit.

If your Excellency desires to have any conversation on this subject, I am ready to receive you.

No. 12.

Lieutenant-Colonel Sheil to Earl Granville.—(*Received April* 12.)

(Extract.) *Tehran, February* 14, 1852.

IT appears that the Persian Government had, under the pretext of affording an escort to its Agents proceeding to Herat, sent various detachments of troops, amounting altogether to 1,200 men, to that city. Syed Mahomed Khan, besides having succeeded in expelling by force his uncle Deen Mahomed Khan from the fort of Ghorian, has been also enabled to dispatch a body of troops to Ferrah against the Candahar troops which had obtained possession of that town, though not of the citadel; and it was believed that this force would, with the aid of the Herat garrison in the citadel, obtain the evacuation of that place.

I have the honour to inclose translations of additional correspondence which has taken place between the Persian Government and myself, relative to its undertaking a military expedition to Herat. Although the Prime Minister persists in endeavouring to obtain the approbation of Her Majesty's Government to this enterprise, nevertheless, I received a few days ago a message from the Shah, through a Persian gentleman, to the effect that His Majesty had no intention whatever of sending an army to Herat, and that his sole object was, by making a great clamour, to excite the fears of the Candahar invading force, and thereby obtain its withdrawal from the Herat territory. The state of my health has prevented my waiting on the Shah to obtain a direct confirmation of this announcement.

It is somewhat remarkable that the Shah in giving this intimation should have expressed his wishes that his message should not be revealed to the Prime Minister.

Inclosure 1 in No. 12.

The Sedr Azim to Lieutenant-Colonel Sheil.

(Translation.) *January* 22, 1852.

I DO not know what interpretation your Excellency has given to my letter of the 14th January, that you should write that the assembling of troops on the Herat frontier would excite the dissatisfaction of the British Government, considering that the Persian Ministers exert themselves strenuously to increase and strengthen daily the ancient relations of friendship with the British Government, not (Heaven forbid it!) that they should consent to anything which would be a just cause for even slight dissatisfaction on the part of the British Ministers.

The intelligence your Excellency has received of the movement of troops by the Prince Governor of Khorassan, from Meshed, against Herat, is undoubtedly incorrect and unfounded; because no order having been issued or permission given by His Majesty to do so, how is it possible that the Prince could of himself move against Herat? If he has moved out of Meshed, or let it be supposed he should hereafter do so, it will be solely for the purpose of arranging the internal affairs of the country, and not for aggression on the territory of Herat.

But with regard to the son of Kohendil Khan having moved with a large force

and guns in order to seize Herat, and his being already in possession of the country as far as Ferrah and Sebzar, and Syed Mahomed Khan has undoubtedly not the power to preserve himself, I do not know how we can reconcile the rights acquired by the late Yar Mahomed Khan for the services he rendered to this Government, with a total oblivion by the Persian Ministers of his great services, which are known to all the world, or pay no regard to the fact that all the people of Herat, the Cazee, the Mufti, the Khans, and the chief Affghans, and Syed Mahomed himself, have placed themselves under the protection of this Government, and announced that they are its servants and subjects, and adopt a practice which is unsuitable to any Government or country, because he himself has distinctly stated, in writing, that he is a subject and servant of Persia, and that he considers himself under its protection, and having attached himself to this Government, he seeks relief from his difficulties from His Majesty the Shah of Persia. Would the British Government, or would it not, in justice consider the Persian Government entitled to keep in view the rights acquired from services by Yar Mahomed Khan and the people of Herat, and to give protection to its servants and those attached to it?

Your Excellency has stated that "the people of Affghanistan might well be left to settle their own disputes without the interference of Persia, and that the fear of danger to this country from the approach of troops to Herat from a foreign direction is either imaginary or a pretext; for what loss could follow to Persia from the contests of two small Principalities like Herat or Candahar, to which your Excellency alludes?" Yes, your Excellency writes in this manner; but leaving them to settle their own disputes would cause confusion in Khorassan and severe loss to this country in life, territory, and property, and disgrace to its Ministers, and they do not know if they could free themselves from the responsibility of these losses. The Persian Ministers, therefore for the above reasons, and because they see that disturbances would immediately arise in Khorassan from confusion in the affairs of Herat, without any pretext consider it their real duty, with the most friendly feelings towards the British Government, to state to your Excellency, first, that the Persian Ministers consider Herat, not Affghanistan, to be a portion of the Province of Khorassan, and the protection of Herat and the people of Herat to be their duty.

Again, solely on account of friendship and the preservation of unanimity and friendly relations with England, and expressly to please and give confidence to the British Ministers, and with the most perfect friendship for the British Government, the Persian troops will, with the knowledge of the British Ministers, proceed to Herat, in order to secure the tranquillity of Khorassan and the Persian frontiers, and to establish regularity in the affairs of Herat, so that it may remain in its former condition, and, having appointed a Governor from among the people of Herat, so that the affairs of that place may be put in order, will then return without delay, and without taking possession of it.

Secondly, a long time must elapse before the British Minister can be informed of this, and how is this to be reconciled with the present condition of the affairs of Herat, time pressing, and the movement of Kohendil Khan's son, who has certainly reached Ferrah and Sebzar. As by that time the act would be accomplished and irremediable, the Persian troops will proceed exactly as is stated above, in order to regulate the affairs of Herat, and then return this once, and leave Herat in the hands of the people of Herat, without any foreign interference. In short, the Persian Ministers have no other intention than to preserve the rights of Yar Mahomed Khan and the people of Herat, the regulation of Khorassan, and taking steps to free themselves from the claims upon them, and what is due to their own greatness, when they, the people of Herat, have proclaimed themselves servants and subjects and sought protection.

Finally, I again write distinctly, the Persian Government asks nothing of the people of Herat but service, obedience, and subjection, and such service and duty as were rendered by Yar Mahomed Khan during his lifetime, which were to such a degree that they could not be exceeded. Afterwards his son and his family, and the people of Herat, have engaged to render the same services, and let not the British Minister suppose that it is a pretext, as the Persian Government has no other intention than to give assistance to the people of Herat. What necessity is there that it should deprive its own servant of possession, and subject itself thereby to a heavy expenditure of money, and excite the

suspicions of such a friend as the British Government is? A wise man would never act in this manner.

If your Excellency has any voucher to produce that Persian troops shall not proceed to Herat, be so good as to produce it; if not, with the evident confusion in Khorassan, and the agitation in Herat, how is it possible that a person can remain quiet, and not give active assistance? No doubt your Excellency will, from your sense of justice, consent to one of the just demands of the Persian Ministers, which has for its sole object to find a remedy for putting down insurrection within its own territory.

Translated by
(Signed) Wm. Taylour Thomson.

Inclosure 2 in No. 12.

Lieutenant-Colonel Sheil to the Sedr Azim.

January 27, 1852.

WHEN the Persian Ministers urge, as a motive for a military movement to Herat, their fears of the distractions of that city causing disorder in Khorassan, they should have reserved such reasons for a Minister less acquainted than myself with Persia. During my long residence in this country, I have never known the countries bordering on Khorassan free from strife and warfare. There has been incessant contention among the Chiefs of Herat, Candahar, Seestan, Beloochistan, Lash, &c., yet no extraordinary damage has been suffered by Khorassan. The British Government will therefore regard this motive as frivolous, or, worse still, as feigned.

There seems to be slight necessity for allowing feelings of gratitude to overpower the Persian Ministers. The good conferred by Yar Mahomed Khan was at least counterbalanced by the evils he inflicted on Persia. If gratitude has so much influence on their minds, let them remember how much they owe to Great Britain, and what expectations they still have from the friendship of England.

The choice seems easy to a prudent Government between the well-tried goodwill of England, and the regret which will certainly follow from the disregard of her wishes by a military movement, with the absurd object of restoring the imbecile authority of Syed Mahomed Khan.

Your Excellency stated in your letter of the 22nd Rebbiul-evvel (January 14), that the Persian troops would not approach Herat unless the force from Candahar advanced from Ferrah to that city. Now, however, you intimate that, irrespective of the movements of the Candahar army, Persian troops will be dispatched to establish order, and to place some Herat Chief in authority. Thus is an engagement kept, and such is the reliance the British Government has to place in the assurances of the Persian Ministers! At one moment they proclaim gratitude and anxiety to strengthen the position of Syed Mahomed Khan to be their only motive; at another, they would lead us to believe in their total indifference, and that all they seek is to restore tranquillity under the authority of any Chief whatever.

All I have to say is, that the Persian Ministers are aware of the displeasure which this proceeding will create in Great Britain, and that all the consequences rest with themselves. It is not the evasive language I have quoted which will conciliate the confidence of the British Ministers.

And with regard to the proposal of the Persian Ministers to march a force to Herat to oppose the Candahar troops, and then return "this time," I have no authority to accede to any such project. My orders are to warn the Persian Ministers, as I have already said, against proceeding to Herat on any pretence. Your proposal, moreover, to be of any value, should at least have contained a specification of time; in its present form, it will increase suspicion, and is worthless.

In short, the Persian Ministers are deluding themselves in pursuit of a phantom; they are risking, for the merest illusion, the substantial advantages Persia has so often derived, and which she, perhaps, again expects, from the friendship of England. But I rely on the wisdom of His Majesty the Shah placing a check on the unseasonable ambition of his Ministers.

Inclosure 3 in No. 12.

The Sedr Azim to Lieutenant-Colonel Sheil.

(Translation.) *February* 2, 1852.

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your Excellency's letter of the 27th of January, relative to the Herat question, the substance of which I have fully comprehended.

As my letter of the 22nd of January was founded entirely on truth and candour, and contained neither false excuses nor pretexts, it was therefore requisite, from the just and equitable principles for which your Excellency is distinguished, that you should have examined that communication with an unsuspicious eye, and returned to the Persian Ministers the reply which they expected. I am at a loss to understand how your Excellency, on examining this note, could have allowed any suspicion or doubt to have entered your mind, that you have thus in your reply resisted and opposed our proposals. I therefore repeat, and I call upon your Excellency in sincerity to bear testimony in support of our pretensions and to the truth of our assertions, that the Persian Ministers entertain no other design in making these statements than the preservation of relations of perfect friendship and unanimity with the British Government, and a desire to shun and avoid a step which would, they are certain, entail disorder and produce confusion in the internal affairs of the province of Khorassan, and bring discredit on the Persian Government. The Persian Government expects that the British Ministers will, with that consummate justice and equity for which they are renowned throughout the world, acknowledge the fairness of their sentiments and assertions, and by no means receive them with suspicion and doubt.

I have brought your Excellency's reply to the knowledge of His Majesty the Shah (may God preserve his dominions and lengthen his reign !), who has been pleased to honour me with his auspicious autograph. As, in my opinion, the best manner of answering your letter is by forwarding to you this document, the style of which is perfection itself, which reveals the inmost thoughts of His Majesty the Shah-in-Shah, and discloses the sentiments of the Persian Ministers, I now do myself the honour to inclose it. Your Excellency, by the proofs which this document contains, will be convinced that in this matter the Persian Ministers have no other object in contemplation than to avoid and prevent any disorder arising in the administration of Khorassan, and to uphold the good name and reputation of this Government among other nations and the Affghans. I again repeat what I have often stated to you verbally, and in writing, that the Persian Ministers have no other design regarding Herat than merely, in consideration of what has been above stated, and the misery which the people of Herat are suffering, to regulate the affairs of that city, and on this being effected the troops will be recalled. I state to you distinctly, that notwithstanding the existence of several convincing proofs in support of the right of the Persian Government to the possession of Herat, for the sake of cherishing a friendly alliance with the British Government the troops shall return without taking possession.

When your Excellency shall have acquired a knowledge of all these particulars, and of the above two powerful and satisfactory reasons for our conduct, which are so exceedingly obvious as to require no remarks, and the truth of which every person possessed of understanding will, on having the facts placed before his mind, corroborate ; if you will, on taking a fair view of what justice and the friendship between the two Governments require, make some arrangement, and point out some expedient by which the Persian Ministers may feel assured on this point, or if you will devise some means of escape from the above difficulties in which we are involved, I have not another word to say.

I beg you to be so good as to return me the Shah's autograph.

Translated by

(Signed) Ronald F. Thomson.

Inclosure 4 in No. 12.

Autograph Letter from the Shah of Persia to the Sedr Azim.

(Translation.)

IT is no doubt on account of the Minister for Foreign Affairs being sick that he has not yet seen the British Minister, or explained to him the contents of my autograph note to the former; otherwise the British Minister would not have written his last letter in the style he has.

After the return of the late Shah from the expedition to Herat, the authorities and Affghans of Herat tendered by authentic documents, in the presence of the British Minister, their homage and obedience, and conducted themselves, as in former times, as servants of this Government. The Persian Ministers, too, have acted in the way they ought to have done as protectors of its subjects, and they have, by openly and repeatedly bestowing upon them dresses of honour, decorations, and titles, and all manner of favours, made them sincerely desirous of fulfilling their duty as servants. Thus, the services rendered by the Zuheer-ood-Dowleh (Yar Mahomed Khan) during the rebellion of the Salar, had an European reputation; and now that the Zuheer-ood-Dowleh is dead, Syed Mahomed Khan, his son, and the people of Herat, are under the necessity of requesting assistance from this Government for the regulation of their own affairs. If we should be negligent in granting this aid, not only will it be contrary to proper government, and (the duty) of protecting our servants, but it will also give us a bad reputation among foreign Governments, and diminish the confidence of the people of Persia and Affghanistan in us. Setting aside these considerations, it is not unlikely that one of two things may happen—either Syed Mahomed Khan will acquire by his own means independent power, or one of the Khans of that place will, without being under any obligation to Persia, acquire a preponderance; and in either of these two events, the Governor of Herat will lose all hopes from Persia, and doubtless with tribes such as these, desirous of exciting disturbance, and those headstrong Affghans, this will give rise to trouble, bad conduct, and lawlessness, and create disorder in the province of Khorassan.

In short, you must either put the British Minister to the trouble of seeing you at your own house, or send him this autograph, so that he may be acquainted with its contents, and you will say, by the soul of the late Shah, I am heartily desirous that the friendship of the two Governments should daily become more firm. I shall not withhold in anything giving satisfaction to the British Government, and more especially in any matter having connection, though slight, with the honour and dignity of that Government. But in this matter of Herat I am bewildered. Let him show us what course to pursue so that our reputation may not suffer in this Government and in others, and in a country which hopes to receive favours and aid from us.

Translated by
(Signed) Wm. Taylour Thomson.

Inclosure 5 in No 12.

Lieutenant-Colonel Sheil to the Sedr Azim.

(Translation.) *February* 7, 1852.

THE only answer I can make to your Excellency's letter of the 12th of Rebbee-oos-Sance (February 2), is to repeat and refer to the substance of my former communications. The Persian Ministers are fully apprised of the views, wishes and expectations of Her Majesty's Government. I may remark, however, that Syed Mahomed Khan is by no means in the destitute condition the Persian Ministers wish me to believe. I have certain information of his having expelled Deen Mahomed Khan from Ghorian; also that the troops from Candahar have captured only the weak town of Ferrah, while the citadel remains in the hands of the Heratees, and that a force has been sent from Herat to expel the Candaharees from the town.

But I take this opportunity of alluding to the various Persian military

detachments which have already gone to Herat: 500 men accompanied Meerza Ahmed Khan, the Agent from Tehran; the same number is to attend Sam Khan, and 200 men proceeded there with a dependent of the Prince.

With regard to the Shah's Royal autograph, which you did me the honour to transmit to me, I beg to make a few observations. His Majesty declares that it affects his dignity not to listen to the supplications of Syed Mahomed Khan, and not to send a body of Persian troops to his assistance. This is incomprehensible. Let us examine who Syed Mahomed Khan is, and what claim he has to impose this obligation on the Sovereign of Persia. He is a man of profound incapacity. He is the son of Yar Mahomed Khan, the slave-dealer and man-stealer, the traitor, the usurper, the murderer of his Sovereign. Is such a person, or are his interests, to be placed in competition with the long-tried friendship of Great Britain? Let him rule if he can, but let not Persia run the risk of coldness with an old ally for so worthless a person.

I beg His Majesty to remember the declaration, often repeated, of the late King of Persia, that he never would have marched against Herat, had he known more distinctly that the expedition was opposed to the views and wishes of the British Government.

Translated into Persian by
(Signed) Ronald F. Thomson.

No. 13.

Lieutenant-Colonel Sheil to Earl Granville.—(*Received May* 3.)

(Extract.) *Tehran, March* 7, 1852.

I HAVE the honour to inclose a translation of a letter from the Persian Prime Minister, relative to the affairs of Herat, with a copy of my reply.

The Sedr Azim, after a renewal of the professions of this Government of there being no desire for the permanent occupation of Herat, makes a sort of engagement that the Persian troops would not remain more than six months in that territory; but the value of these expressions is destroyed by the passage immediately succeeding, to the effect that their stay would be prolonged only "until order is restored."

My reply is restricted to a renewal of the dissatisfaction which the movement of Persian troops, under any pretext, would cause Her Majesty's Government, and to an attempt to prove that the fears of the Persian Government, of the result of the subjugation of Herat by the Chiefs of Candahar, have no foundation.

The issue of coinage at Herat, in the name of the Shah, and the reading of the "khootbeh," or prayers of Friday, in the name of His Majesty, which forms, in the East, an indisputable recognition of sovereignty, have caused great triumph in the mind of the Shah and his Minister, and increased their avidity for a more formal possession of that city. On the one hand, daily intelligence from Khorassan assures them of the ease with which the occupation can be accomplished, and of the pressing danger of their being forestalled by the force from Candahar; on the other hand, the fear of incurring the displeasure of Great Britain, with all the perplexity and vague fear of the consequences of that displeasure, holds them back. As yet, I am disposed to believe that no movement has been made beyond the frontier.

In my judgment the two facts I have mentioned, combined with the nomination of a Persian vezeer to Syed Mahommed Khan, which, however, is denied by the Sedr Azim, but which I learned from a very authentic channel, are additional reasons for opposing the advance of Persian troops to Herat. Assuming even that the Persian Government would faithfully observe its promise, and withdraw its troops within the Persian frontier at the time stipulated, what in reality can Herat be considered under such circumstances but a Persian possession. An evil of another character remains to be considered. At the present moment, and so long as Herat remains under Affghan domination, Her Majesty's Government can at its discretion appoint an Agent or Consul to reside in that city. But as soon as it becomes recognized as an integral portion of the Persian dominions, this power ceases, and is transferred to the Russian Government,

which would then enjoy unfettered liberty for the diffusion of its name and influence throughout Affghanistan, and the other countries adjacent to Herat.

So great has been the perplexity of the Shah and his Minister what course to pursue, that they have adopted the unusual resource of appealing to two Councils to guide their steps in this emergency. I took the precaution of reminding one or two influential members of the Councils of the precarious state of Persia, of the uncertainty of the relations with Turkey, and of other arguments in support of the inexpediency of creating dissatisfaction in the minds of Her Majesty's Government at this moment. The decision of both Councils is said to have been unanimous against intervention by a military movement with the affairs of Herat in opposition to the views of Great Britain, and I cannot doubt that the opinion of the principal persons of his Court must produce a suitable impression over the Shah, in spite of the deep mortification of seeing the prize slip from his grasp, and the imminent risk of its passing into the hands of the Chiefs of Candahar.

I have reason to think it is in the contemplation of the Persian Ministers to make to me a proposition of some sort, tending to obviate the necessity of dispatching a force to Herat; but it has not yet assumed a shape sufficiently defined to make it worth while transmitting for your Lordship's consideration. It seems not unlikely that the march of events will put, ere long, an end to speculation and discussion here, either by the capture of Herat by the Candahar force, or by the sudden and perhaps unauthorized march of the Persian troops stationed at the frontier to check the near approach of the above force.

In addition to the troops reported in my despatch of the 14th of February, 1,000 infantry and 1,000 horse are about to be dispatched to Khorassan.

P.S.—I have just heard from a very confidential source that the coinage of Herat was effected at night by Syed Mahomed Khan, Meerza Ahmed Khan, the Persian Agent, and a single goldsmith, and was carefully concealed from the Affghans. I have also been informed that the "khootbeh" has not been read in the mosques.

Inclosure 1 in No. 13.

The Sedr Azim to Lieutenant-Colonel Sheil.

(Translation) *March* 3, 1852.

BY His Majesty's command several letters have already been written to your Excellency on the subject of Herat, and I have stated to your Excellency many proofs, each of which establishes the rights of this Government. His Majesty the Shah made you acquainted some time ago by his Royal autograph, transmitted through me, with his most secret thoughts (on this subject), and in truth desired from the justice of the British Minister such a remedy for this affair as would both prevent this Government from suffering in its reputation, and do away with disorder in Khorassan.

Doubtless your Excellency is aware that the King and Ministers of Persia, in stating the hopeless condition of Herat, and their difficulty in finding a remedy for it, have really left nothing untried to dispel any doubts and suspicions which may have arisen relative to their intentions, and they expected from the strong friendship entertained by England (for this country), and from your Excellency's sense of justice, that you would have become a kind and friendly partner in whatever was for the benefit of this country, and that you would have pointed out a remedy for anything prejudicial to it. Notwithstanding this, and with the expectations which we had a right to entertain by your Excellency's last letter, none of our hopes have been realized. Not only this, you have introduced other matters foreign to the subject under discussion. Sometimes you speak of the weakness of Candahar, and the large force which this Government has sent and is sending (to Herat). At other times you complain of my letters being written in ambiguous terms, while in fact they are full of truth and straightforwardness. Now you remark that sending troops to Herat has no connection with the establishment of order among the Toorkomans. And again, the subject is the want of discipline in the Persian army. Each of these remarks which you have brought forward may be justly refuted, but I shall not

trouble you by dwelling upon them. You then advise the Persian Government to regulate the internal affairs of the country, and to liquidate its debts to a foreign Government.

In the first place, I am greatly grieved that your Excellency should, as it appears, suspect the honest and friendly statements of the Persian Ministers to be the promptings of interested plans and views of aggression. In the second place, that which you advanced, and the advice you gave at great length, have no connection with the question under discussion, nor do they supply any immediate remedy for this affair, or improve the forlorn condition of Khorassan. The Candaharees not having as yet obtained full authority over Herat, disorder and confusion in the internal affairs of Khorassan are hourly arising, and thereby cause great additional expenditure, and this is to be attributed solely to the disturbed condition of the affairs of Herat. I stated to your Excellency a few days ago the occurrence at Koozkan, and that these horsemen had come by the way of the mountainous district of Herat, and that they had carried off a number of captives and pillaged the place. Now, fresh and authentic intelligence has been received that about 400 horsemen, dependents of Herat, had come to Behmandan and Kaeen, and pillaged and entirely destroyed both these places, carrying off from 300 to 400 captives, male and female, and with such barbarity that children at the breast had been thrown under the hoofs of the horses and left on the roadside. God knows that, from moment to moment, the condition of Khorassan and those parts is becoming more disturbed from the Persian Government not having that degree of preponderance in the districts of Herat which it formerly exercised, and from the consequent increase of boldness and audacity of the evil-disposed brigands and tribes of Herat, (it is unknown) to what pitch it will reach. I ask your Excellency to state, in justice, what there is at variance between regularity being established in the affairs of Herat, and the preservation (at the same time) of the most friendly and amicable relations with the British Government. Is it befitting that during a period of the most friendly relations (Heaven forbid it should be so!) we should perceive on the part of your Excellency a disposition to disregard our desire to obtain the rights of this Government, notwithstanding that the Persian Ministers have repeatedly stated in a straightforward manner their real intentions. Again, in order to do away with the expression you have used in your letter (that I had employed) "ambiguous expressions," I again distinctly state that the Persian Ministers have no other thought or intention than the establishment of order in Herat; and that no troops will be placed (permanently) in Herat: they will be sent there to give gratuitous asssistance, and as soon as order has been established they will return. Not more than 6,000 men will be sent to Herat, unless a fresh necessity should arise, and the existence of that necessity receive the attestation of every one; the troops will not remain more than six months in Herat; and when order has been established they will return. Nor shall the troops again march there unless some fresh disturbance arise in the place. With regard to your Excellency's statement that the number of troops exceeds what is required for the service, this objection is quite untenable, when it is considered that authentic information has been received from Khorassan that the Candaharees, with 3,000 or 4,000 troops, and upwards of seven pieces of artillery, have seized Ferrah, and intend to proceed against Isferaz and Herat.

In short, Ferookh Khan, who is the bearer of this letter, has received orders to communicate certain other details, which he will explain verbally to your Excellency on the part of the Shah. His Majesty has commanded that I should express my hope that from the great friendship of the British Government, and from this Government having always perceived the desire of the British Government to preserve the rights of Persia, as well as from your Excellency's sense of justice, you will send by Ferookh Khan, in writing and verbally, such an answer as will give full tranquillization, so that they may be submitted to His Majesty, and thus the affairs of Khorassan suffer no greater degree of confusion. This discussion has been going on with your Excellency since we left Ispahan, nearly six or seven months ago, and it is not yet finished. No doubt it is in your Excellency's recollection that you have daily been given verbal assurances (that no disorder would occur), and the fruit of these assurances, as your Excellency doubtless knows, is, that both the people of Herat and of Khorassan are in a hopeless and forelorn condition. They have sent a petition by post, and they consider their case hopeless. The Persian Ministers, too, although they have

no hidden views, solely from the friendship they entertain for the British Government, have remained silent and perplexed, and they are at a loss what orders to issue on the subject. His Majesty demands of your Excellency to find a remedy for this state of affairs, which admits of no greater delay. It is clear that the Persian Government has exerted itself to the utmost to satisfy the British Government, and it is obliged to preserve its good reputation and to protect its subjects. Every Government desires to do the same.

The reasons why the Ministers of this Government are anxious speedily to establish order in the affairs of Herat are these: that nothing may occur detrimental to the reputation of this Government, or cause loss to the people, or disorder in the country.

Although your Excellency has verbally given us assurances that these will not occur, still you have never stated this officially and in writing. If, in fact, your Excellency is confident on this head, be so good as to state so in writing, that the British Government will be accountable for the damages sustained by the people and the country of Khorassan, and for the expenses which may arise to Persia from the disorder in Herat, and thus the Persian Ministers will be assured. Notwithstanding that they have one thousand rights in regard to Herat, and the people of Herat account themselves Persian subjects, they will, solely to satisfy the British Government, and to show the unanimity which exists between the two States, remain silent.

Translated by
(Signed) Wm. Taylour Thomson.

Inclosure 2 in No. 13.

Lieutenant-Colonel Sheil to the Sedr Azim.

March 5, 1852.

THE orders of Her Majesty's Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs are so positive and precise, that it is out of my power to give any other answer to your Excellency's communication of the 3rd instant, excepting to repeat what you already know, that a movement of Persian troops to Herat, under any pretence, will be in the utmost degree dissatisfactory to the British Government.

It is indifferent to Her Majesty's Government what Affghan Chief rules in Herat. But when the Persian Government urges as its motive for sending troops to Herat, the plea of restoring order on the frontiers of Persia, I think it necessary to say that the British Government will not be misled by such a futile argument. It is not by the temporary sustainment of a person so utterly incapable as Syed Mahomed Khan, that order will be permanently established. If the motive alleged by the Persian Ministers were the true and sole one, it is obvious that the possession of Herat by men of, at all events, a higher degree of capacity and enterprise, like Kohendil Khan and his brothers, would offer far greater chances of tranquillity and security on the frontiers, than the vain attempt to preserve in power a person whose character unfits him for authority. Kohendil Khan and his family are under the greatest obligations to this Government, of which they were at one time the pensioners; it is therefore evident that it is for their interest to remain on good terms with Persia.

I use this language without the slightest predilection for Kohendil Khan, and merely to prove that the ostensible motives assigned by the Persian Government for a military movement are deficient in foundation, and that prudence and wisdom dictate to the Persian Government the expediency of leaving the Affghans to settle their own affairs.

Two paths are open to Persia: one leading to the preservation of the cordiality which now subsists between England and Persia, with all the advantages to be derived from the friendship of a Government not the least among nations; the other will conduct this country into embarrassments, of which the consequences are not difficult to foresee, and which, as a sincere friend and well-wisher of the Persian Government, I earnestly deprecate.

P.S. I observe that at the close of your letter there is an ambiguous passage, which would seem to imply that I have verbally declared that Great

Britain will be responsible for all losses that Persia might suffer on the frontiers of Herat. I have only to say, in return, that I most positively deny having, directly or indirectly, hinted at so extraordinary a proposition.

Translated into Persian by
(Signed) Wm. Taylour Thomson.

No. 14.

Lieutenant-Colonel Sheil to Earl Granville.—(*Received May* 3.)

(Extract.) *Tehran, March* 15, 1852.

YESTERDAY I had an audience of the Shah, by His Majesty's express desire, to discuss the state of affairs in Herat.

His Majesty expressed in terms of much warmth his earnest wish to cultivate the friendship of Her Majesty's Government; but the occupation of Herat by the Chiefs of Candahar was, he said, a serious injury to his dominions from the risk to which the extensive frontier of Khorassan would be exposed by incursions of Affghan and other Horse, and that, therefore, it was unfriendly and unjust in Great Britain to deter him from preventing that result.

I answered that it was by no means clear that so small a body as the troops dispatched from Candahar would succeed in gaining possession of Herat; that the acquisition of this city would not greatly enlarge the power of Kohendil Khan, whose interest therefore would urge him to maintain friendly relations with the Shah.

The Shah said he had four propositions to make: that the Persian troops should be suffered to proceed to Herat to repel the Candahar invaders, on the understanding of evacuation the Herat territory as soon as the Candahar force had withdrawn and order was restored. I replied that the coinage of Herat and the "khootbeh" being in His Majesty's name, the occupation of Herat by Persian troops on any pretext would excite the dissatisfaction of Her Majesty's Government.

The next proposal of the Shah was, that the English Government should become responsible for all the losses which the Persian Government might suffer in consequence of the annexation of Herat by the Candahar Chiefs, and for the increased military expenditure which would devolve on Persia in consequence of that event. I answered that an engagement of this nature would be equivalent to an agreement on the part of England to send an army to Candahar for its enforcement, a consummation which I thought His Majesty would hardly seek.

The Shah then proposed that the incapacity of Syed Mahomed Khan being notorious, the Persian Government and I should in conjunction send one of the descendants of Kamran Shah to Herat, and nominate him ruler. As this implied the dispatch of Persian troops for carrying out such an arrangement, the objections to it were of the same nature as those before urged against the first proposal.

The last proposal was to the effect that I should send an agent to the Candahar General, accompanied by an agent from the Shah, to warn him in the name of both our Governments against meddling with the independence of Herat, and to call on him to retire. In answer to my objections that I had no instructions on the subject, and that I certainly could not in any case employ threats which might not be fulfilled, the Shah said that in all likelihood exhortation would accomplish the object in view. I requested His Majesty's permission to pause before giving a definitive answer to this proposition. In continuation I stated that in the event of complying with the Shah's wishes on this point, I required to know whether His Majesty would renounce in writing all territorial right to Herat, as well as to the coinage and "khootbeh" in his name, as this would tend to regulate my conduct, and also make a serious impression on Her Majesty's Government of the candour and frankness of the Shah's intentions. His Majesty was unprepared for this alternative, and said it would be time enough to think of these questions when the Candahar force was withdrawn. He subsequently mentioned his willingness to give a document of this description, if the British Government would, on its side, enter into an agreement not to allow Herat to be annexed to either Candahar or Cabul.

The audience concluded by the Shah insisting I should wait on him without delay as soon as my messenger arrived.

The impression I derived from my audience with the Shah confirmed the opinion I have lately formed, that the nearer approach of the Candahar force to Herat will be the signal for the advance of the Persian troops at Jam. Another audience with the Shah will take place in a few days, and I shall profit of that occasion for repeating the expression of the dissatisfaction which interference with Herat will cause Her Majesty's Government, as well as the other arguments which I have so often urged in writing.

The Sedr Azim informed me of the Shah's intention to send three other battalions of infantry to Khorassan. He declared the object of this increase of the military force in that province to be only defensive, and he complained heavily of the expense to which the Persian Government was placed by the ambition of the Candahar chiefs. Your Lordship will, probably, not be disposed to place any reliance on the sincerity of the Persian Minister.

No. 15.

Lieutenant-Colonel Sheil to Earl Granville.—(*Received June* 29.)

(Extract.) *Tehran, March* 31, 1852.

YESTERDAY I had an audience of the Shah, by his own desire, to hear a repetition of his former proposal, that I should send a person to dissuade the Candahar force from approaching Herat. I agreed to do so on condition that His Majesty would sign a document renouncing all rights over Herat, and agreeing to recall his two agents from that city. The Shah said he would assent to this proposition, provided I would sign a paper to the effect that the British Government would engage to prevent Kohendil Khan from occupying any portion of the Herat territory. This being beyond my powers, the discussion had no result. A long conversation on the subject of the forward movement of the Persian force at Jam followed, with which I need not trouble your Lordship. I quitted the Shah, leaving him in great perplexity how he should act.

A similar conversation followed immediately after with the Persian Prime Minister.

I afterwards sent a short memorandum to the Sedr Azim, in which I proposed to use my good offices with Kohendil Khan, or with his son, Afzal Khan, the Commander of the force dispatched from Candahar, on the same conditions that I have mentioned above; with the addition, that in the meantime I would make a reference to Her Majesty's Government relative to the guarantee required by Persia against Kohendil Khan, the Shah qualifying his renunciation of all rights over Herat with a reserve that it was to be contingent on the acquiescence of Her Majesty's Government in the guarantee. This proposition evidently did not place the Persian Government in a worse position than at it is at present, while it, at the same time, offered some hope of a definite arrangement. It was not, however, acceptable to the Persian Ministers, who seemed resolved to agree to nothing which did not include a sanction to a movement of troops to Herat.

No. 16.

Lieutenant-Colonel Sheil to the Earl of Malmesbury.—(*Received June* 29.)

(Extract.) *Tehran, May* 1, 1852.

IT would appear that the defeat of Kohendil Khan was merely a fabrication of the Persian Government. His retreat, from under the walls of Herat, was caused by the near approach of the Persian troops commanded by Abbass Koolee Khan, who had advanced to within twelve miles of Herat, and to the apprehended junction of 2,000 Hezareh horse with the Herat forces. Kohendil Khan and his army had halted at Ferrah, which is in the Herat territory.

Sam Khan, with the Persians under his command, was completely master of the citadel and city of Herat. Under his authority, a number of the Affghan Khans of Herat had been seized and dispatched into Persia. These were, of course, the chiefs who were opposed to Persian domination, and who were desirous of maintaining the independence of Herat.

The Persian force commanded by Abbass Koolee Khan is believed to have retired to Ghorian. As Sam Khan was paramount in Herat, this movement does not diminish the supremacy of the Persian Government in that city. The object is, doubtless, to maintain some show of concession to the British Government. By the Persian Government, and by every one in Tehran, Herat is looked on as a Persian possession, and the management of the Shah and his Minister, which has made them masters of this city, without a contest, and in opposition to the wishes of the British Government, excites great admiration.

As my remonstrances have failed to prevent the advance of the Persian troops close to Herat, or to deter the Persian Government from assuming the real possession of that city, it seems to me that the most becoming course I can pursue, is to abstain from useless expostulation, until I receive your Lordship's orders. Unless some special reasons, such as the occurrence of new events, should render it expedient to renew my communications with the Persian Ministers on this subject, I propose to follow the above course.

No. 17.

Lieutenant-Colonel Sheil to the Earl of Malmesbury.—(*Received July* 3.)

(Extract.) *Tehran, May* 4, 1852.

NO intelligence has reached me of the advance of the Persian army to expel the Candahar troops from Ferrah and the Herat territory; nor, on the other hand, of its having withdrawn from Ghorian into the Persian dominions.

The Sedr Azim told me some time ago that the Persian troops in Herat would not be recalled so long as the army of Kohendil Khan remained in the territory of Herat, lest he should return and renew his operations against the city.

As, however, my persuasion is that permanent occupation is contemplated by this Government, and that it is only by the apprehension of the resentment of the British Government, and the conviction that the retention of Herat will be resented by Great Britain, that its complete evacuation can be attained, some reflections have occurred to me on the subject, which it may not be out of place to bring to your Lordship's observation.

Assuming an anxious desire to exist on the part of Her Majesty's Government for the maintenance of the independence of Herat, or, at least, for its continuance under Affghan rule, I beg leave to offer an opinion, that if I were empowered to announce to the Persian Government that the presence of Her Majesty's Mission in this country would be dependent on the conduct of the Persian Government with regard to Herat, and that if, within a certain number of days, every Persian soldier in that town were not recalled, the British Mission would withdraw from the Shah's court, and quit Persia, no doubt need exist that the demand of Her Majesty's Government would be complied with. I need not say that the execution of the threat would be necessary, should it fail to operate in the manner and to the extent anticipated. A very lively desire no doubt animates the Shah and his Ministers for the possession of Herat, and I believe they will readily submit to the expense which its occupation will require. They have at the same time a great dread of a rupture with England, and this feeling alone has deterred them from openly placing a garrison in Herat during the last ten months. The Persian Government sees plainly that it is the interference of Her Majesty's Government which saves it from an attack from Turkey, and even now it is not free from the apprehension that the course it has pursued with reference to Herat, may not cause Her Majesty's Government to alter the tone and language which have hitherto restrained Turkey from open aggression and defiance of the Treaty.

It may be asked why then did not these motives, if they are so powerful, deter Persia from giving offence to Great Britain by the conduct pursued at Herat. The answer is, that Persia trusts largely in the forbearance of Great Britain.

Above all, I am aware, from excellent authority, that these points have been already calculated by the Persian Ministers. They have proposed to themselves to retain Herat as a permanent annexation to Persia, should the British Government display indifference or supineness on the subject, and to be prepared to abandon that possession should the British Government exhibit an intention of resenting a defiance of its wishes with reference to the maintenance of Herat as an independent State.

The change which has taken place in the British dominions in India, and the advance of the frontier, have, it may be averred, diminished or destroyed the importance of Herat, and rendered its possession a question of indifference. It can scarcely admit of doubt that the annexation of the Punjab and Scinde, and the occupation of the line of the Indus, have immensely increased the strength and power of the British Government to repel invasion or aggression. But I think it ought not to be forgotten that the antagonist parties have at the same time approximated, and that the facilities and means of demonstration and aggression have increased. A few years ago England was on the Sutlej and Russia on the Arras, 1,400 miles from Herat, with the unfruitful Georgian provinces and the Caucasus behind her. Now Russia is at Asterabad, with the open sea and the Volga in the rear.

I have brought to observation in a former despatch that Herat being annexed to Persia, Russia enjoys the right, from which England is excluded, of placing a Consul in that city.

I will not fatigue your Lordship with speculations on the feasibility or otherwise of an invasion of India. With the Russians at Asterabad, and the Caspian and Volga in the rear, it seems almost impossible to credit that any overwhelming obstacle exists against a demonstration by Russia in Affghanistan.

The Persians are thoroughly accustomed to distant expeditions. They march habitually from the frontiers of Turkey to the borders of Affghanistan.

I offer these observations in order to reach the conclusion, that whatever may contribute to obviate or defer the events I have been venturing to predict as far from impossible, is the policy safest and cheapest to pursue, particularly if the sacrifice should be trifling in its extent or consequences.

The sacrifice I venture to offer to consideration is only to risk a withdrawal of the Mission.

If danger does exist to India, whether in a smaller or greater degree, it appears to be nearly certain that that danger is increased by the appropriation of Herat by Persia. A great prestige is attached to its possession; magazines of food can be easily established in security; it becomes a base for military operations; and it can be easily converted into a most secure place of refuge for a retreating army.

Should these observations and opinions have any value in your Lordship's eyes, and should the suggestion here made be adopted, I conceive that, in making an announcement to the Persian Government of the terms on which an English Mission would be maintained in Tehran, it would be advisable to insist on the withdrawal of the Persian force from its menacing attitude on the frontier of Herat, and that it would be requisite to send an Attaché of this Mission to Herat to superintend the withdrawal of every Persian soldier, and to ascertain that all the Affghan Chiefs who have been removed to Meshed are restored to their own country.

If I have troubled your Lordship at much length, it is because I have an earnest opinion of the importance of preventing Persia from maintaining herself in the permanent occupation of Herat, and of the comparative facility with which she could be induced to relinquish an acquisition which has fallen into her hands only in consequence of the imbecility of the Ruler of that country.

No. 18.

The Earl of Malmesbury to Lieutenant-Colonel Sheil.

Sir, *Foreign Office, July 7, 1852.*

I HAVE to acknowledge the receipt, on the 3rd instant, of your able and interesting despatch of the 4th of May, setting forth the inconveniences which may result from allowing Persia to obtain possession of Herat, and the means by which the Persian Government might be induced to withdraw its forces from the Affghan territory.

Your despatch of the 1st of May, from which it appeared that the Persians had firmly established themselves in Herat, reached me on the 29th of last month; and you will see by the inclosed copy of a letter from the President of the Board of Control, that if the question of Herat was limited merely to Persian supremacy in that town, the British Government would not apprehend from such a state of things any possible danger to British interests in India, sufficient to induce them to depart from the course which they have lately observed in their communications with the Persian Government on this matter.

But the considerations which you have so forcibly pressed on Her Majesty's Government in your despatch of the 4th of May, point to difficulties and dangers of a far more serious character than might be apprehended from the mere occupation of Herat by Persia. Her Majesty's Government, indeed, during the life-time of the present Emperor of Russia, have no apprehension of any hostile movements on the part of Russia calculated to disturb the tranquillity of British India; and since the news of the occupation of Herat by the Persians has reached this country, Baron de Brunnow has expressed to me his great regret at that occurrence.

Her Majesty's Government must, however, look forward to the future; and although they entertain no suspicion of Russia at the present moment, they have thought it right to test the sincerity of the professions which they have repeatedly received from the Russian Government. I have accordingly instructed Her Majesty's Minister at St. Petersburgh, as you will see by the inclosed copy of a despatch which I have addressed to him, to invite the Russian Government to cooperate with that of Her Majesty, with the view of inducing the Shah to withdraw the Persian forces from the Affghan territory.

Until Her Majesty's Government can more clearly ascertain what is the result of this overture, no definite instructions can be sent to you; and still less can you be authorised to threaten to withdraw Her Majesty's Mission from Tehran, in case the Shah does not renounce his schemes of aggrandisement in Affghanistan. But the language which you will hold in the meanwhile should make it clear to the Persian Government that the occupation of Herat by the Persian troops is extremely displeasing to England; that Her Majesty's Government are watching with close attention the course pursued by Persia, with the view of judging how far the professions made by that Power, previously to the entrance of its forces into Affghanistan, were sincere; that there was then no question of permanent occupation or of conquest, no assumption of sovereignty over any part of Affghanistan; and that now that the object for which the expedition was avowedly undertaken has been accomplished, by the retreat of the Affghan troops which threatened to attack Herat from the south, and to dispossess the ruler of that place of the acquisition which he had derived from his father, Her Majesty's Government are entitled to expect that the Persian troops will immediately evacuate Herat, and be withdrawn within the Persian frontier.

You will state to the Persian Government that within these few days the Persian Chargé d'Affaires at this Court has officially declared to me that a Persian garrison is not to be left in Herat. You will take it for granted that this pledge is to be redeemed; and you will press the Persian Government at once to name a period within which Herat and its territory shall be wholly evacuated by the Persian troops, and those troops shall have re-entered the Persian territory.

I will not fail to inform you, without delay, of the result of the step to be taken by Sir Hamilton Seymour; but you will understand from what I have

said, that if, before you hear of that result from me, the Russian Minister at Tehran should announce to you that he has received instructions to act in concert with you for the evacuation of Herat, you will be at liberty to accept his offer, and join in his representations to the Persian Government.

I am, &c.
(Signed) MALMESBURY.

Inclosure in No. 18.

Mr. Herries to the Earl of Malmesbury.

My Lord, *India Board, July* 3, 1852.

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 29th ultimo, inclosing a despatch from Her Majesty's Minister at Tehran, of the 1st of May, which reports that the Persian forces are masters of the citadel and city of Herat, and requesting to be informed whether, under these circumstances, I think it right that Lieutenant-Colonel Sheil should insist on the evacuation of Herat by the troops of the Shah.

It would undoubtedly be more satisfactory to us if Herat could be maintained in an independent state. But, under present circumstances, it would appear that the Persians are received there as protectors rather than invaders. The Ruler of Herat accepts them as the least of two evils, of which the presence of the Affghans would be the greater. Unless, therefore, we could ensure the real independence of Herat, I apprehend that no good would be accomplished by inducing the Persians (supposing Colonel Sheil to have the power of doing so) to retire from that place.

It is satisfactory to observe that your Lordship feels warranted in placing reliance upon the good intentions professed by Russia with respect to Persia and Herat. If that Court be really well disposed to act cordially with us in the use of its influence on Persia, we may view with less regret the existing state of things at Herat.

I have in former communications adverted to the actual condition of our Indian frontier on the western side, which renders the movements of the Persians and Affghans, in disputing the possession of Herat, of comparatively minor importance to the interests of British India.

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. HERRIES.

No. 19.

The Earl of Malmesbury to Lieutenant-Colonel Sheil.

Sir, *Foreign Office, August* 27, 1852.

I HAVE to acquaint you that Her Majesty's Government have received intelligence that the Government of His Majesty the Shah have published a notification in the Persian official "Gazette" announcing the annexation of the Heratian territory to the territories of Persia.

The assurances which you have frequently received both from the mouth of the Shah himself, and from that of his Ministers, that the occupation of Herat by the troops of the Shah was one of a temporary character, would of themselves have caused Her Majesty's Government to receive this intelligence with surprise and regret, even had not those assurances been fully corroborated by verbal and written communications which they have received from the Persian Chargé d'Affaires in this country.

It is to be admitted that the explanations which you have from time to time received from the Persian Government since the death of Yar Mahomed Khan, as to the intentions of that Government towards Herat, if not contradictory in themselves, at all events show that the Persian Government has been gradually developing new schemes, and extending its plans of operation in that quarter.

In the month of July 1851, it appears from your despatch dated the 22nd,

that the Ameer Nizam disclaimed, in distinct terms, any intention on the part of Persia to occupy Herat, and authorized you to convey to Her Majesty's Government an assurance to that effect; and it appears from your despatch of the 4th of October, that he subsequently confirmed those assurances, and from your despatch of the 22nd of November that they were renewed to you by his successor.

Since the commencement of the present year, however, the Persian Government have taken up new grounds. And it appears from your despatches dated January 20 and February 14 of the present year, that the Persian Government had announced to you that should any attempt be made against Herat either from Cabul or from Candahar, Persia would be compelled to assist Herat. You were at the same time informed that the Persian Government considered Herat to be a portion of the Province of Khorassan, and that the protection of Herat was, therefore, the duty of the Persian Government.

But while this view of the case was communicated to you, you were assured that any Persian troops which might proceed to Herat for that object would return without delay, and without taking possession of it, and, to quote the words of the Sedr Azim, "would leave Herat in the hands of the people of Herat without any foreign interference."

Subsequently, on the 3rd of March of this year, the Sedr Azim informed you that the Persian Government had no other thoughts or intention than the establishment of order in Herat, and that no Persian troops would be permanently placed in Herat. You were assured that those troops would be sent there to give gratuitous assistance, and that as soon as order had been re-established they would return to Persia, and that their stay in Herat would be limited to a period of six months.

In the meanwhile it appears from your despatches that the Persian troops gradually advanced towards the frontier, passed into the territory of Herat, and that eventually a portion of them occupied Herat itself.

The answer to your representations on the subject which you now received from the Persian Government was, that the Persian troops would not be recalled so long as Kohendil Khan occupied a portion of the territory of Herat.

What the present position of Kohendil Khan may be, is at this moment unknown to Her Majesty's Government, but as far as they are informed that Chief had announced his intention to remove from that territory.

Such are some of the assurances which Her Majesty's Government have received through you from the Persian Government, and which certainly afforded no grounds for the supposition that the Government of Persia had in view a permanent occupation of Herat.

But in addition to this, in an interview which I had this year with the Persian Chargé d'Affaires, Sheffee Khan stated to me that it was the intention of his Government to withdraw its troops entirely from Herat so soon as it should have succeeded in tranquillizing that province; and this assurance was several times repeated, and again renewed to me in writing by Sheffee Khan on the 12th ultimo.

If, however, the intelligence which has now reached Her Majesty's Government, and which is entirely in contradiction with all these assurances, should unfortunately prove to be true, Her Majesty's Government consider that they are fully justified in calling upon the Government of Persia to explain the contradiction which thus exists between the explanations they have given to the Government of this country, and their acts in occupying Herat.

The language which you have already been instructed to hold to the Persian Government will have made it clear to them that the occupation of Herat by the Persian troops has been extremely displeasing to England; and they will scarcely have converted that occupation into an annexation without being prepared to give a satisfactory explanation to Her Majesty's Government.

If the Persian Government should be unable to afford such an explanation, Her Majesty's Government would greatly regret to see that the influence of Her Majesty's Mission at Tehran has thus been inoperative in dissuading the Government of the Shah from proceedings to which that Government was aware that the Government of this country felt serious objections; and, on the other hand, it could scarcely be possible for Her Majesty's Government hereafter to give to the communications of Sheffee Khan, thus disavowed by

his Government, that weight and attention which they would desire to attach to the representations of the Agent of a foreign Government.

You will cause a translation of this despatch to be prepared, and you will communicate it to the Persian Government.

I am, &c.
(Signed) MALMESBURY.

No. 20.

Lieutenant-Colonel Sheil to the Earl of Malmesbury.—(*Received September* 18.)

(Extract.) *Sheerkesh, July* 28, 1852.

I HAVE the honour to report to your Lordship that, a few days ago, the Mufti of Herat arrived here on a mission from Syed Mahomed Khan.

The danger of invasion by Kohendil Khan having passed away, the Affghan population of Herat now shows symptoms of its desire to be relieved from the presence of the agents and troops of the Persian Government. The Mufti, it is said, is instructed by the Chief of Herat, after expressing his devotion to the Shah, and his readiness both to issue a coinage, and to recite the "khootbeh" (or prayer for His Majesty the Shah) in his name, in the first place to endeavour to obtain from the Persian Government its consent that Herat shall remain as it did when ruled by Yar Mahomed Khan, giving aid to Persia, when required, on the one side, and receiving it, when required, on the other. But failing in this, he was then to exert himself in procuring the immediate recall of Meerza Ahmed Khan, one of the Persian Agents, if they would not, at the same time, remove Sam Khan, the other Agent, also. The former is the son of the late Vizier of the Province of Azerbijan, active, and full of intrigue, but entirely Persian, and anxious to reduce, as far as possible, Affghan and Soonnee preponderance in Herat. The latter, being Chief of a powerful family in Khorassan, is believed to be, in heart, desirous that Herat should remain in a neutral condition, in order that he might find an asylum there for the evil day to which Persians in his position always look forward.

In a recent number of the "Tehran Gazette," the Persian Government boasted of the successes it had achieved, by force of arms, in reducing Herat to subjection, and in converting the people of that Principality into ryots, or subjects, of the Shah. In a subsequent number, this vaunting has been somewhat modified, and an announcement has been inserted, that the boast of military successes was an error, but that Herat had become an integral part of the Persian Empire, and that this triumph had been effected by the abilities and management of the Persian Ministers.

As this slight incident may, perhaps, be of some interest to your Lordship, I beg leave to inclose a translation of the two paragraphs.

Inclosure in No. 20.

Extract from the "Tehran Gazette" of July 1, 1852.

(Translation.)

AT this time, the good fortune of His Majesty the Shah has prevailed, and, thanks to the exertions of the Persian Ministers, order has been established in the affairs of the Herat territory, by having lighted the flame of war and slaughter and engaged in battle, and by having advanced troops to the spot. Moreover all the people of Herat have, of their own free will and accord, declared themselves loyal subjects of Persia, in consequence of the care and attention shown to their interests by the Persian Ministers. It is seldom witnessed that a province which for years has disowned the authority of its Government, is with such ease restored to submission and obedience of its own accord and with one consent.

It is solely owing to the happy destiny of His Majesty the Shah, and the high abilities of his Ministers, that this has been effected with such ease.

Extract from the "Tehran Gazette" of July 8, 1852.

In the last number of this paper, the person who wrote the first page, being a new hand, by the omission of one word, and by neglecting to place a point below one of the letters of a word, gave a totally different sense to the paragraph than that intended. Instead of stating with regard to Herat, that by the good fortune of His Majesty the Shah and the exertions of his Ministers, order had been established in Herat, without having lighted the flame of war and slaughter, or having engaged in battle, and by having advanced troops to the spot, the writer stated that this had been effected by having lighted the flame of war and slaughter, and by having engaged in battle, and by having advanced troops to the spot. It is now, therefore, announced that the above province, which had for years freed itself from the authority of the Kings of Persia, and notwithstanding troops having been sent, and war being declared, and the place being besieged, they had failed in obtaining a victory; at the present time, by the happy destiny of His Majesty the Shah, the whole of the people, both high and low, of Herat and of those parts, seeing the safety and tranquillity enjoyed by this ever-enduring country, the order which prevails, and the manner in which its powerful Sovereign cherishes his subjects, and believing that obedience and submission would be to their honour and obtain for them also peace and tranquillity, of their own inclination and freewill, they prayed to be servants and subjects. It is a source of thanksgiving and gratitude for the subjects of this Government that so extensive a country should, with so much ease, at this time again form an integral portion of this exalted Government. It is to be hoped that henceforth the people of that country will also enjoy peace under the protection and favour of this Government.

Translated by
(Signed) Ronald F. Thomson.

No. 21.

Lieutenant-Colonel Sheil to the Earl of Malmesbury.—(Received October 4.)

(Extract.) *Camp near Tehran, August* 22, 1852.

I HAVE had two interviews with the Persian Prime Minister relating to the evacuation of Herat according to the views of Her Majesty's Government, as notified in your Lordship's despatch of the 7th of July.

The Russian Minister has not made any overture to me on this question, nor do I believe he has made any communication to the Persian Ministers in connection with the retirement from Herat of the Persian forces.

The Sedr Azim disavowed, altogether, the language of the Persian Chargé d'Affaires in London, in stating to your Lordship that a Persian garrison would not be left in that city. Sheffee Khan, he said, had no instructions authorizing such an announcement; and his Excellency added, that the Persian Chargé d'Affaires had neglected in his reports to state that such language had been held by him.

In these interviews, the Sedr affected great frankness with reference to the policy of Persia towards Herat. He said that he had really and truly given directions for the evacuation of the Herat territory three months ago; but that the order had been coupled with a discretion to the Prince Governor of Khorassan to delay its execution if expedient; hence it happened, that the Persian force was still in the Herat territory, within eight miles of Ghorian, which is forty miles distant from Herat, and is the first Herat town towards the Persian frontier.

The Sedr Azim further said, that Kohendil Khan (Chief of Candahar) had sent his brother-in-law to Kerman, with a letter to the Shah, praying that Ferrah and Sebzar might be left in his hands. The answer was, an intimation to evacuate those places, and that then the Shah would judge whether they should be retained by Herat or Candahar.

An Agent, named Meer Hyder Khan, had been dispatched from Tehran to Candahar with two firmans addressed to Kohendil Khan: one signifying the Shah's pleasure that he should hold Ferrah and Sebzar; the other peremptorily ordering him to evacuate those places on pain of a Persian army being sent to expel his troops. A discretion was conferred on the Prince Governor of

Khorassan in selecting either of these firmans for transmission to Kohendil Khan. The Prince decided on demanding the summary evacuation of these towns. No answer has yet been received to this communication, but it cannot be long delayed.

Your Lordship will perceive that the influence of Persia has extended beyond Herat.

With regard to the evacuation of Herat, the Sedr Azim said that the Persian Government would adhere to the declarations it had made previously to the occupation of the Herat territory by Persian troops. Peremptory orders, without reserve or discretion, had been sent to the Persian Commander, Abbass Koolee Khan, to retire with his force to the district of Toorbet Hydereeah. This place is 150 miles distant from Ghorian.

Orders would be sent immediately, his Excellency said, to Sam Khan to reduce his escort to 100 men, and to send the remainder to Persia. His personal attendants would amount to nearly the same number.

If Ferrah and Sebzar were evacuated by the Candahar troops, or whenever that object were attained, Sam Khan with the whole of his escort would be immediately recalled to Persia, and another Agent sent to Herat unattended by armed followers.

The Persian Minister said that should the Candahar troops not be withdrawn from those two towns, it was the intention of the Persian Government, acting on the same principle which had dictated the dispatch of troops to the aid of Herat, to send a force to Ferrah and Sebzar, to be withdrawn after the expulsion of the Candahar troops. The Persian force would not proceed to the above places by way of Herat; they would march by a different route.

The Persian Minister, in the course of conversation, having said that in the event of a renewal of an attack by Kohendil Khan on Herat, or by Dost Mahomed Khan, or any of his family, it was the determination of this Government to act in the same manner as on the present occasion, I declined to enter into the discussion of a prospective and uncertain event.

I need scarcely remind your Lordship of the insincerity which characterizes the Sedr Azim in common with the generality of his countrymen, and that his promises relative to the retirement of the Persian force, the present diminution and final withdrawal of the military escort, are to be looked upon as mere professions until actually carried into execution. My efforts will, of course, be directed in furtherance of this object.

During my interview to-day, the Sedr Azim said that the object with which the Herat Agent had come to this Court was, to demand pecuniary aid and the issue of a firman promising that Herat should be retained by Syed Mahomed and his descendants for ever. It was intended, he said, to bestow on this chief 10,000 tomans, which the Agent had promised should be melted and recoined in the Shah's name.

To prevent any misunderstanding as to the nature of the conversation which I had held with the Sedr Azim to-day, I addressed to his Excellency a letter, of which I have the honour to inclose a translation, recapitulating the chief points of discussion.

Inclosure in No. 21.

Lieutenant-Colonel Sheil to the Sedr Azim.

(Translation.) *August* 22, 1852.

TO prevent any mistake in my report to my own Government, I think it advisable to recapitulate the conversation I held with your Excellency to-day, relative to the affairs of Herat, and the evacuation of that territory.

I understood your Excellency to say that although orders had been formerly sent to Abbass Koolee Khan, Meer Penjeh (General), to withdrawn the Persian force under his orders within the Persian territory, these orders, from certain circumstances, had not been executed, but that yesterday the most positive orders had been issued, without any reserve, to that Commander to retire immediately with his troops from the vicinity of Ghorian to the district of Toorbet Hydereeah.

With regard to the complete evacuation of Herat by Persian troops, your

Excellency declared that orders had been sent to Sam Khan to reduce without delay his military escort to 100 men, exclusive of his personal attendants, and dispatch the remainder of his horsemen to Persia.

Further, that in two or three months, more or less, or as soon as Ferrah and Sebzar (or Sebzewar) were evacuated by the troops of Candahar, the entire of the military escort attached to Sam Khan should be withdrawn, and the Herat territory be completely evacuated by Persian troops. You also said that another agent would be sent with fifteen or twenty attendants, and without any military escort, to reside at Herat on the part of this Government.

No. 22.

The Earl of Malmesbury to Sheffee Khan.

Foreign Office, October 27, 1852.

THE communications respecting the proceedings of the Persian Government in regard to Herat which the Undersigned, &c., has, at different times, had with Sheffee Khan, &c., will have satisfied Sheffee Khan that Her Majesty's Government has viewed with great disapprobation the operations undertaken by the Persian Government against that State, and they only refrained from marking their disapprobation by any overt act in reliance on the assurances repeatedly and solemnly given by the Persian Government, both to Her Majesty's Minister at Tehran, and through its own Chargé d'Affaires in London, that no permanent change in the state of possession in Herat was contemplated by it as the result of its armed interference in that State.

More lately, when Herat had been actually occupied by the Persian army, Sheffee Khan, of his own accord, called on the Undersigned at the Foreign Office, for the purpose of assuring him that its occupation was only a temporary act, and that the city of Herat would soon be evacuated.

The intelligence which Her Majesty's Government have now received from Persia, proves that, in the face of these solemn assurances, the Persian Government has formally announced the annexation of Herat to Persia as an integral portion of the Persian dominions.

Her Majesty's Minister at the Court of Persia will be instructed to make known to the Persian Government the feelings of deep displeasure with which Her Majesty's Government have received the intelligence of this proceeding on the part of the Persian Government. But it is the duty of the Undersigned to lose no time in acquainting Sheffee Khan that, in consequence of what has occurred, Her Majesty's Government feel that they can no longer place faith in any assurances which may be given to them, either directly by the Persian Government through Her Majesty's Minister at Tehran, or by Sheffee Khan, on the part of his Government; and the Undersigned is, therefore, compelled to announce to Sheffee Khan, that he can no longer hold political intercourse either with Sheffee Khan, or with any other Representative of the Persian Government in London.

The Undersigned regrets to be under the necessity of making this communication to Sheffee Khan; and he trusts that the Persian Government, by retracing its steps, and by henceforward adopting a more straightforward course, and one more in conformity with what it owes to Her Majesty's Government, will enable him hereafter to resume his political relations with a Representative of the Shah of Persia.

The Undersigned, &c. (Signed) MALMESBURY.

No. 23.

The Earl of Malmesbury to Lieutenant-Colonel Sheil.

Sir, *Foreign Office, October* 27, 1852.

THE course which has been pursued by the Persian Government in regard to the affairs of Herat is such as to inspire Her Majesty's Government with well-grounded distrust in any professions which the Shah or his Ministers have

made, or may hereafter make, in regard to that province. The promises and assurances hitherto given by that Government in reference to the disinterestedness of the measures taken by Persia have ended in a formal and official declaration that Herat is henceforward to be an appendage to the Persian monarchy, and that the forces of Persia will be directed against any Affghan Power which may seek to interfere with her newly-acquired possession.

Practically, therefore, it matters not whether a Persian garrison be retained or not in the fortress or city of Herat: the whole province is claimed as a Persian possession; and it now remains for the British Government to decide whether they will allow this flagrant disregard of assurances so repeatedly given to them by Persia to pass unnoticed, or whether they will openly evince their deep displeasure, and take measures to resist any further encroachments of Persia on other independent States of Affghanistan.

I have already, in my despatch of the 27th of August, recapitulated the various assurances made by the Persian Government, either directly to yourself, or through the Persian Chargé d'Affaires in London, to Her Majesty's Government, in regard to the late operations in the territory of Herat; and it is impossible for Her Majesty's Government, in the face of such strong declarations so deliberately falsified, to give credit to the fresh promises, reported in your despatch of the 22nd of August, of the speedy withdrawal of the Persian troops from the territory of Herat.

The withdrawal of those troops might certainly be a merely literal fulfilment of a portion of the engagements entered into by the Persian Government, but it would fall very far short of a fulfilment of the spirit in which those engagements were understood to have been made, and a trust in which induced Her Majesty's Government to assume a passive attitude while the Persian operations were in progress. So long as the avowed object of those operations was the mere quieting of the intestine troubles by which a neighbouring State was agitated, Her Majesty's Government, although far from admitting the propriety of the measures by which that end was proposed to be accomplished, were content to acquiesce in the course contemplated by the Shah, and, relying on the often-repeated assertions of the Shah's Government that the extension of Persian territory was not contemplated, Her Majesty's Government merely intimated that the Shah was entering upon a course of action of which they could not approve.

The result has proved that the assurances so frequently given by the Persian Government have been utterly disregarded, and that the territory of Herat, upon the maintenance of which in a state of independence Her Majesty's Government have strongly insisted, is henceforth to be considered an integral portion of the Persian monarchy, and possibly to form an advanced post for further encroachment on Affghanistan.

Her Majesty's Government cannot submit in silence to such acts on the part of the Government of Persia; and although they will not, without a further attempt to bring the Persian Government to a just view of its duties and engagements, adopt the extreme measure of breaking off all diplomatic intercourse with that Government, and of withdrawing Her Majesty's Mission from Tehran, they nevertheless feel it incumbent upon them to evince their displeasure in a manner not to be mistaken.

With this view, I have acquainted Sheffee Khan that Her Majesty's Government can hold no further intercourse with him as the Representative and instrument of a Government which, by its double-dealing, has afforded them such just cause of displeasure; and you will state to the Persian Government in distinct terms, that unless the Persian troops are wholly withdrawn from the territory of Herat, and unless the government of that country is placed in Affghan hands, and relieved from interference on the part of Persia in its internal concerns, no Representative of the Persian Government, whether it be Sheffee Khan or any other person, will be admitted to hold political intercourse with Her Majesty's Government.

Furthermore, it is the desire of Her Majesty's Government that, in your own intercourse with the Persian Government, you should evince the utmost coldness and reserve. You will continue to assert, in their full extent, the rights and privileges secured to British subjects by Treaty; but you will not, by the offer of your advice or by the exertion of your good offices, assist the Persian Government in any difficulties in which it may become involved.

Her Majesty's Government will not, in the first instance, withdraw from all

further interference in the question of boundaries, which has been so long under discussion between Persia and Turkey, because they are unwilling to expose Persia to the disastrous consequences which might result from their doing so. But the Persian Government will do well, after this formal warning, no longer to rely on the assistance of Her Majesty's Government to extricate it from any dangers and embarrassments such as those in which it is so constantly entangled; for until it shall have set itself right in regard to its recent conduct, it will appeal in vain to the former friendship of Great Britain for succour in its hour of need.

Her Majesty's Government trust that the evidence which the Persian Government will receive, from this communication, of the serious light in which its late proceedings are viewed, will cause it immediately to renounce any projects which it may have entertained of further encroachments on the Affghan territory. The Persian Government must be aware, from what took place some years back, that the British Government can easily cause its displeasure to be felt by Persia in a manner which may sensibly affect the material interests of that country. It is far from the wish of Her Majesty's Government to enter upon a course which would be as painful to their own feelings as it would be prejudicial to Persia. But Her Majesty's Government must distinctly declare that they will not allow any systematic attempt on the part of Persia to effect a change in the state of possession in the countries lying between the Persian frontier and the British territories in India.

You will cause an accurate translation to be made of this instruction, and forward it to the Persian Minister, together with a copy of it in the original language.

I am, &c.
(Signed) MALMESBURY.

No. 24.

Lieutenant-Colonel Sheil to the Earl of Malmesbury.—(*Received October* 28.)

(Extract.) *Camp near Tehran, August* 31, 1852.

WITH reference to my despatch of the 22nd of August, I have the honour to inclose, for your Lordship's information, a translation of a letter from the Sedr Azim, relative to the evacuation of Herat, in answer to my note of which a copy was inclosed in the above despatch, and a translation of further correspondence which has passed between that Minister and me on the same subject.

The following is the present state of my discussions with the Persian Ministers regarding these affairs. The force under Ábbass Koolee Khan is to be withdrawn to a distance of about 40 fursukhs, or 160 miles, from the city of Herat; this distance, if the agreement be really executed, appears to me sufficient.

The escort of Sam Khan, the Persian Agent in Herat, is not to exceed 100 men, and his personal attendants, who, in reality, are equally fighting men, are to be reduced to 30 or 40 persons, the whole of whom are to be withdrawn as soon as Ferrah and Sebzar are evacuated by the Candahar troops.

Though the Persian Government perseveres in its intention to cause a force to enter the territory of Herat to effect the expulsion of the Candahar troops, should Kohendil Khan reject the invitation for its evacuation made to him, it has agreed that its troops shall not approach nearer the city of Herat than twelve or sixteen miles.

The Persian Government, too, persists in its intention to accept the offer of the coinage of Herat.

With regard to the Herat Khans in confinement at Meshed, the Persian Government would enter into no arrangement for their liberation. The Sedr Azim proposed to set them free if I would guarantee that they should not enter any part of the Affghan dominions. This of course was out of my power, and the project contained, moreover, an admission of the principle which to me seems objectionable, that is, the right of Persia to exercise an act of sovereignty of this nature.

From the Inclosure No. 1, your Lordship will perceive that this Government reserves to itself a right to send troops to Herat in the event of external aggres-

sion or internal disorder. My proposal for the renunciation of the latter pretension was disregarded; so that should contention arise among the Affghans of Herat, Persia assumes a right to interfere, and thereby always maintain a supremacy in that city.

The resolution of this Government to exercise as effectual a control over the affairs of Herat as if it held that city in its occupation, is, to my judgment, evident. Intervention in the internal affairs of that Principality will enable it to execute its purpose, and the turbulent character of the Affghans is likely to afford abundant opportunity for interference.

Her Majesty's Government ought, in my opinion, I venture to observe, to count on the likelihood of constant and most vexatious embarrassment in reference to Herat, unless it adopts the resolution of notifying to this Government that any military movement into the territories of that Principality will be viewed as an aggressive act towards England, and treated accordingly. An announcement of this nature would, I take the liberty of remarking, be particularly applicable to interference with internal commotion, or attempts to change the individuals presiding over the Government.

I shall continue my efforts to deter the Persian Ministers from reoccupying the Herat territory under the plea of ensuring the evacuation of Ferrah; but until I receive your Lordship's instructions, my language shall be that of advice and dissuasion, not menace.

P.S.—The Sedr Azim has sent me a letter, stating that he had directed the Prince Governor of Khorassan to adopt one of three courses with reference to the Herat Khans, the nature of which would be detailed to me by Meerza Hoossein Koolee, the Persian Secretary of this Legation. The Prince had a discretion to allow these Chiefs to depart from Meshed without any conditions; or to set them free, taking from them a solemn promise not to return to Herat; or to release them on the same conditions, their families to be left as hostages at Herat. As the Persian Minister declined to record these arrangements in writing, I consider his declaration to be of no value.

Inclosure 1 in No. 24.

The Sedr Azim to Lieutenant-Colonel Sheil.

(Translation.) *August* 23, 1852.

YOUR Excellency's letter, dated the 22nd of August, has reached me, regarding the affairs of Herat, and the conversation which passed between you and me, with a recapitulation of what passed in order that there might be no misunderstanding.

With relation to Abbass Koolee Khan, Meer Penjeh (Brigadier), and the troops under his command, and their recall, the arrangement is the same as that which your Excellency heard from me. Positive orders have been issued to him by the Persian Ministers to march with his force from the place where he is encamped to Heft Chemen, in Toorbet Hydereeah.

Your Excellency's statement relative to the issue of positive orders to Sam Khan (Persian Agent in Herat) to dismiss 100 of his horsemen, and to remain there himself with the remaining 100 horse of his escort, besides his personal attendants, is correct. We shall act exactly in that manner. His attendants, however, are about 100 persons.

Your statement that after the evacuation of Ferrah by the Candahar troopss the above remainiug horsemen and attendants [the word employed signifie, "collection of people"] will wholly evacuate Herat, is correct. But you appear to have forgotten one point among my remarks, that is, that if the Candahar troops should evacuate Ferrah, an Agent would then be dispatched to Herat, such as Meerza Ahmed Khan (one of the recent Agents) with twenty or thirty attendants. Sam Khan would then return with his people and attendants, otherwise (that is, if Ferrah were not evacuated) troops will be dispatched by the Government,* whom Sam Khan will join, and expel the Candaharees from

* The expression "Persian" Government or "this" Government is designedly avoided, lest it should imply that Herat was different or separate from Persia.

Ferrah. These troops will proceed outside the city of Herat. After the capture of Ferrah, and the return (of the troops) from thence, an Agent of the above quality will be sent to Herat, and Sam Khan will return. The troops of the Government (Persian Government) will not return to Herat, unless an enemy should attack Herat, or if great disorder should take place in the affairs (that is, internal affairs) of Herat.

Another point not alluded to by your Excellency, is the coinage of Herat in the name of His Majesty, which the Heratees themselves are desirous of, and which His Majesty will consent to.

Inclosure 2 in No. 24.

Lieutenant-Colonel Sheil to the Sedr Azim.

August 23, 1852.

AS the detention of the Affghan Khans in confinement at Meshed is certainly contrary to the spirit of the declarations of the Persian Government when the Persian troops entered the Herat territory, I trust your Excellency will make an arrangement for their liberation, so as to convince the English Government of the sincerity of the professions of the Court of Persia in its disclaimer of an assumption of sovereignty over Herat. It would, in my judgment, be to the advantage of both Governments to terminate as speedily as possible all subjects of discussion connected with that Principality. So long as these Chiefs are detained in custody in Persia, the British Government will not have it in its power to consider that this Government has fulfilled its agreement. Their liberation can be effected in a manner from which no one can suffer unjustly.

Inclosure 3 in No. 24.

Lieutenant-Colonel Sheil to the Sedr Azim.

August 24, 1852.

I FIND, on inquiry, that there is no such place as Heft Chemen in Toorbet Hydereeah, and that name, moreover, is applied, not to one place, but to a considerable extent of country. The tract known by that name, consisting of seven large grazing-plains, is far distant from Toorbet. Part of it, moreover, adjoins the Herat territory, and is only twelve miles from Ghorian.

It is contrary to the spirit of the former declarations and agreement of the Persian Government, as well as of the demand of the British Cabinet, that this Government should constantly hold a force in the vicinity of and threatening Herat.

If the Persian Government is sincere in its professions, and devoid of ulterior designs, instead of these vague and uncertain terms it will not hesitate to name a specific distance from the frontier of Herat to which the force under Abbass Koolee Khan shall be recalled—say 150 miles.

Your Excellency's allusion to the coinage of Herat scarcely corresponds with your expressions. What you really said was, that it was the intention of the Persian Government to deliver to Seyd Mahomed Khan's agent, now in Tehran, 10,000 tomans for conveyance to Herat, which the agent promised should be melted, and coined in the Shah's name.

The question of coinage, and the announcement thereon contained in your letter, deserve the reflection of the Persian Ministers. The assumption of the coinage is a recognised and public mode of assumption of sovereignty. If your Excellency will take the trouble of referring to your letters to me dated the 22nd of January, the 2nd and 16th of February, the 3rd of March, and the 14th of April, you will find the absolute denial of any such pretensions, and you are aware that the English Ministers have not lost sight of your written promises, and are awaiting their fulfilment.

Your Excellency cannot have forgotten the expressions of the Earl of Malmesbury, that Her Majesty's Government is watching with close attention

the course pursued by this Government, with the object of judging how far its professions are sincere.

I therefore strongly advise the Persian Ministers to recall their intention, in order to prevent the possibility of a belief on the part of the British Government that the professions of the Persian Government are totally at variance with their actions. A frank and candid line of action by the Persian Government is the most certain mode of terminating this affair amicably.

I consider the design of sending troops against Ferrah as most injudicious. It is introducing fresh complications into an affair already sufficiently embarrassed. The Persian Government may be assured that it is the interest of all parties to terminate this transaction, and all discussion regarding it, as speedily as possible. A movement towards Herat, and the entrance of Persian troops again into the Herat territory, is entirely to be deprecated.

Inclosure 4 in No. 24.

Lieutenant-Colonel Sheil to the Sedr Azim.

August 24, 1852.

YOUR Excellency must be sensible that 100 personal attendants to a man like Sam Khan are a preposterous number. You yourself have not so numerous a suite.

With candour and sincerity we shall do a good deal, and I therefore beg your Excellency to estimate these attendants at their true number, which, at the utmost, is 20 or 30.

Inclosure 5 in No. 24.

The Sedr Azim to Lieutenant-Colonel Sheil.

(Translation.) *August* 28, 1852.

YOUR Excellency's letter dated the 24th August has reached me. You have stated that after inquiry you have ascertained that Heft Chemen has no existence in Toorbet Hydereeah, and that this pasture-ground adjoins the Herat territory, and is twelve miles from Ghorian. I have made the necessary inquiries again from a person who has perfect knowledge of that country, and according to his statement it has been proved that Heft Chemen appertains to the country of Bakherz, in the centre of Mahmoodabad, and in the centre* of Toorbet Isaw Khan, and is 40 fursukhs (160 miles) from Herat (the city). Under the above circumstances, the statement of its bordering on the Herat territory, and its being three fursukhs distant from Ghorian, is a declaration which the utterer made to your Excellency contrary to fact, or from want of knowledge and from ignorance. In this case, that is, the case that the halting-ground of the force under Abbas Koolee Khan, the General, should be 40 fursukhs distant from Herat, your Excellency will comprehend that the Persian Government is sincere in its professions and is free from other views.

With regard to the coinage of Herat, you appear to think that you have stated exactly what I mentioned verbally. The real drift of my language bore reference to the desire of the people of Herat to strike coin in the name of Shah, and the acceptance of their request by His Majesty. But with regard to the quantity of coin to be struck, it ought to be in your Excellency's recollection that there was no specific declaration. The conversation may have related to 10,000 tomans, or less than 10,000, or very likely it may have related to various sums. In short, the conversation was concerning the wish of the Heratees and the concurrence of His Majesty. Please God, the Persian Ministers will not deviate from their past and future words, promises, and actions in this matter.

With regard to the dispatch of troops to Ferrah, too, should the necessity arise, the agreement is that they should march by another road, which is three or four fursukhs (twelve or sixteen miles) from the city, and having put the affairs of that place in order, should return. In this there will be no subterfuge or failure.

* This means between those places.

With regard to the Khans of Herat (in confinement at Meshed), although I have addressed an answer to your Excellency, I again write to you that I will make a verbal arrangement, such as shall be expedient, in an interview with you.

With regard to the attendants of Sam Khan, which you say are estimated too numerously at a hundred people, merely to gratify you, I shall make a representation to His Majesty and arrange that he shall not retain more than thirty or forty attendants. He is to satisfy himself with this number of attendants, besides the hundred horse (agreed upon).

No. 25.

Sheffee Khan to the Earl of Malmesbury.—(Received October 30.)

(Translation.) *October* 29, 1852.

His Excellency, the noble in origin, our benevolent friend, the high in station, &c.

I HAVE received the letter your Excellency did me the honour to address me under date of the 27th October, regarding the affair of Herat, and have been much grieved and astonished, because my Government in their last despatches approved precisely of what I have already had the honour to explain to your Excellency, personally and in writing: there has occurred no change whatever; they have maintained the same perfect understanding and desire to cultivate the "unity of the two nations," and especially the goodwill of the English Government.

I now hasten to assure your Excellency, on the part of my Government, that as soon as tranquillity has been established at Herat, and in the boundary of Khorassan, the army will not remain in Herat, nor will any change be made in the former state of Herat.

My Government have no other intention than to see the people of Herat submissive, and that quiet and peace may reign in the frontiers of Khorassan. Although soldiers may be there, it is only to establish a tranquil state of things in the place.

This is what is necessary to bring under your Excellency's notice; and if you should wish it, I will be happy, on your making an appointment, to attend on your Excellency to explain personally the facts of the case again.

Awaiting your Excellency's reply, I have, &c.

(Signed) SHEFFEE KHAN.

No. 26.

The Earl of Malmesbury to Sheffee Khan.

Sir, *Foreign Office, November* 3, 1852.

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 29th ultimo, and I regret to have to state to you in reply that I can hold no communication with you on political matters, or place any reliance on your assurances in regard to the course which the Persian Government may intend to pursue, until, by the entire withdrawal of the Persian troops from the territory of Herat, and by the restoration to that State of entire freedom for the management of its internal concerns without interference on the part of Persia, the Government of the Shah shall fulfil the assurances which it has itself made, and shall confirm those which you have yourself heretofore made, and which you repeat in your present communication.

I have to add that under existing circumstances I must decline the honour of your proposed visit.

I have, &c.

(Signed) MALMESBURY.

No. 27.

Lieutenant-Colonel Sheil to the Earl of Malmesbury.—(*Received November* 6.)

(Extract.) *Camp near Tehran, September* 17, 1852.

I HAVE the honour to inclose, for your Lordship's information, a translation of a letter from the Sedr Azim with reference to Herat, in which he announces that Sam Khan, the Persian Agent lately in Herat, accompanied by several Affghan nobles and tribute, had left that city for Tehran with all his troops, and that an officer would be dispatched from this, unaccompanied by any military escort, to reside permanently in Herat.

Inclosure in No. 27.

The Sedr Azim to Lieutenant-Colonel Sheil.

(Translation.) *September* 16, 1852.

THE Persian Ministers have been informed, by letter, that Sam Khan (Persian Agent in Herat), with his troops and companions, had, according to orders given to him, left Herat with several of the Affghan nobles, who are the bearers of tribute, and are now on their way to this Court. In his (Sam Khan's) place, one of His Majesty's courtiers will proceed to Herat and reside there permanently, but without troops. No other Persian troops will return to Herat, unless in the event of the people of Candahar not evacuating Ferrah, or any great disturbance occurring in the affairs of Herat, in which case, as has been repeatedly written to your Excellency, troops will be dispatched, and, when the duty assigned to them has been concluded, they will return.

As it was necessary, I have given your Excellency this friendly announcement.

Translated by
(Signed) Wm. Taylour Thomson.

No. 28.

Lieutenant-Colonel Sheil to the Earl of Malmesbury.—(*Received December* 11.)

(Extract.) *Tehran, October* 8, 1852.

ACCORDING to your orders, I delivered to the Sedr Azim a translation of your Lordship's despatch of the 27th of August.

The Sedr Azim commenced the conversation by saying, that in his estimation the Persian Government had fulfilled all the promises it had given relative to Herat. The force under Abbass Koolee Khan had been withdrawn a considerable distance from the frontier; Sam Khan, the Persian Agent, with the entire of his escort, had been recalled to Persia; and Syed Mahomed Khan had been left to the unfettered government of his territory, on his own resources; moreover, the Persian Cabinet, in maintenance of its engagements to Her Majesty's Government, would not again send troops to Herat, unless in the event of external aggression, or unless Kohendil Khan should not evacuate Ferrah.

I answered the Persian Minister, that, however plausible this language sounded, it was not the less true that the relation of Persia to Herat, in defiance of repeated assurances and promises, was as nearly as possible that of Sovereign and subject. "This," I said, "was testified by the assumption or the acceptance of the coinage in the name of the Shah; by the deputation to Tehran of Syed Mahomed Khan's brother, as a sort of hostage, with a number of the Khans of that Principality; by the incarceration at Meshed of several Chiefs of Herat, over whom the Shah had no sort of jurisdiction."

The Sedr Azim said that all this was done by the desire of Syed Mahomed Khan himself, and without the exercise of compulsion on the part of the Persian authorities.

I said that this, admitting the truth of the assertion, did not render the fact of subjugation less transparent; moreover, it was absurd to talk of the Heratees having any will, when nearly all the principal Chiefs had been transported to Persia; and that all these acts were a breach of the spirit of the promises given by this Government to Great Britain.

I called the attention of the Persian Minister to the specific complaint of Her Majesty's Government, that the Persian Cabinet had, in farther breach of its promises, announced in the Persian Official Gazette, the annexation of Herat to the dominions of the Shah. His Excellency replied that the allegations of a newspaper were not deserving of notice, and that every journal contained assertions not founded on reality.

I reminded him that this argument could hold good only when the journal was private property; but that, in the present instance, the "Gazette" was the property of the Government, every article of which underwent the revision of the Shah and himself.

I proposed to the Sedr Azim to make reparation, and show in some degree the sincerity of the promises given to Great Britain, by inserting a counter-statement to that which had excited the displeasure of Her Majesty's Government. This suggestion was rejected absolutely by the Persian Minister.

If I may be permitted to offer an opinion, it must, I think, be evident to your Lordship that no reliance can be placed in the sincerity of the language of this Government. So long as the Shah believes himself secure from any act of coercion on the part of Her Majesty's Government, he will not renounce, however plausible may be the language employed, the substantial power he has acquired over Herat. It is tolerably clear that he does not propose to confine the extension of his influence to Herat, but that he is seeking for opportunities to diffuse his ascendancy over the other Affghan Principalities. These attempts would, perhaps, be very immaterial, so long as Persia alone occupied the attention of the Affghans, but, according to my view of the question, there is no security for the permanence of her isolated interference with the affairs of Affghanistan.

The Herat Agent (the Mufti) is to leave Tehran in a few days, with 10,000 tomauns, to be coined in the name of the Shah. He is profuse in his promises of returning here with a formal document, signed by Syed Mahomed Khan and the principal inhabitants of Herat, acknowledging the sovereignty of the Shah and the subjection of Herat to Persia.

No. 29.

Lieutenant-Colonel Sheil to the Earl of Malmesbury.—(*Received December* 11.)

(Extract.) *Tehran, October* 22, 1852.

SO determined is the Persian Government to persevere in the annexation of Herat to Persia, and to give publicity to that resolution, a firman has been issued conferring the "government" of that Principality on Syed Mahomed Khan, and constituting him and his descendants Governors for ever. It is also intended to bestow on him the title of Zuheer-ood-Dowleh, which his father possessed. The hereditary government of a large district is not an uncommon tenure in Persia.

Letters from Meshed mention orders having been issued by Syed Mahomed Khan, the Ruler of Herat, that, henceforward, money is to be coined in that Principality in the name of the Shah; the imprisonment, fining, torture, and execution, by the same person, of various Affghan Chiefs, believed to be opposed to the establishment of Persian supremacy; the demand for Persian troops to act in conjunction with those of Herat against Ferrah; the influence acquired by Sam Khan, late Persian Political Agent in Herat, among the Affghan tribes close to the Candahar frontier; the open assumption of actual sovereignty by Persia, in the dispatch of agents by the Prince Governor of Khorassan, to bring to Meshed, Affghan Chiefs imprisoned in Herat by Syed Mahomed Khan; and the complete subjection displayed by the latter person to the will of the Persian Government.

No. 30.

Lieutenant-Colonel Sheil to the Earl of Malmesbury.—(Received December 19.)

(Extract.) *Tehran, October 31, 1852.*

I HAVE the honour to inclose, for your Lordship's information, a translation of the firman alluded to in my despatch of the 22nd instant, conferring the "government" of Herat on Syed Mahomed Khan. The language and style of this document are the same as those employed in appointing a Governor to any of the provinces of Persia.

A person, named Abbass Koolee Khan, has been nominated Resident Agent at Herat. In the firman conferring this appointment, he is directed to assist Syed Mahomed Khan in the government and management of Herat.

Inclosure in No. 30.

Firman of the Shah appointing Syed Mahomed Khan Governor of Herat and its Dependencies.

(Translation.)

AS it has been decreed by the Lord of Heaven and Earth, the bestower of crowns and Royal signets, whose commands must be obeyed, that rank is to be given to every person of superior attainments, and that it is incumbent on just Monarchs and wise Sovereigns (who are the keepers of the flock of mankind and the instructors of the human race, his prophet having declared, "You are all keepers of flocks, and accountable for your conduct,") to honour and adorn with the official garment of high rank and dignity every person possessed of justice and moderation, and free from tyranny and oppression, particularly if it has been ascertained that that person has high qualifications as a military and civil ruler, and more especially when, in addition to those qualifications, he is of ancient family and of a distinguished tribe, so that both from his innate qualities, and from the favour conferred on him (by the Shah), he may be an instrument for rendering more populous the cities, and increasing the popularity of the Sovereign among his subjects.

Therefore We, the Sovereign of Islam, deeming it our duty to confer a special mark of our favour on Seyd Mahomed Khan, who is one of our servants, and whose father also was one of our servants, and who, by good services, demonstrated his good qualities, have in the present year of the "mouse" honoured him with an increase of rank, and constituted him Governor, Ruler, and Keeper of the Marches,* with full control over Herat, with its dependencies, so that he may exert himself fully, and use every effort in reconciling the people to one another, in winning over to us the hearts of the people, in giving solidity to affairs, in increasing agriculture and population, in rendering the roads safe, in increasing trade, and in improving the condition of the people on the marches. Let him always represent to us his devotion, the good services he renders, his knowledge of affairs, his good conduct towards and care of the peasantry; and be it known to him, that he will receive marks of our favour for whatever services he may render.

We (also) ordain that the chief servants, the great officers of the troops, the nobles, the principal people, and all the inhabitants of that place (Herat), and its dependencies, shall know him as absolute Governor, and that they shall not oppose or behave insolently to him.

Translated by
(Signed) Wm. Taylour Thomson.

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* These are the usual terms employed in firmans appointing a subject of the Shah to the government of any of the provinces of Persia Proper.

No. 31.

Lieutenant-Colonel Sheil to the Earl of Malmesbury.—(Received January 5, 1853.)

My Lord, *Tehran, November* 14, 1852.

IN my despatch of the 28th of July, I transmitted to your Lordship translations of articles which had appeared in the "Tehran Gazette," boasting of the annexation of Herat to the dominions of the Shah. The Persian Ministers became early sensible of the mistake they had committed by these official announcements, and they have sought to counteract this imprudence.

I have the honour to inclose a translation of a recent notification in the same journal, declaring that the articles or announcements which appear in it are not to be considered official or veracious, and that the Persian Government by no means undertakes the responsibility of their authenticity. I know, from undoubted authority, that the Sedr Azim has declared his object in making this intimation, was to deprive the British Government of any valid motive for cavilling at the expressions of triumph in the previous gazettes alluded to. I shall remark to his Excellency, that this announcement can have no retrospective effect, and that to counteract the former article a specific declaration is required.

I also beg leave to inclose a translation of the firman nominating Abbass Koolee Khan, referred to in my despatch of the 31st of October, to a permanent residence in Herat. Your Lordship will remark that no designation is given to his appointment, but that the functions he is destined to fill are those of Vizier, or Political Secretary, and not by any means those of a Diplomatic Agent.

This person and the Agent from Herat have commenced their journey to that city.

I have, &c.
(Signed) JUSTIN SHEIL.

Inclosure 1 in No 31.

Extract from the "Tehran Gazette" of November 11, 1852.

(Translation.)

THE newspapers, written by the newspaper writers, and published in every country on the face of the earth, are solely to give information and intelligence, and universally are supposed to contain both truth and falsehood. Not one of the articles they contain have ever been or are considered as certain or official. The newspapers, too, printed in the capital, Tehran, are in the same category, and from first to last are announcements and advertisements. Not one of the articles they contain have been given as certain or official, nor will they be so. They cannot be taken as vouchers, and the Ministers of the Persian Government are in no manner responsible for the truth or falsehood contained in these gazettes.

Translated by
(Signed) Wm. Taylour Thomson.

Inclosure 2 in No. 31.

Firman issued to Abbass Koolee Khan, appointing him Vizier to Syed Mahomed Khan in Herat.

(Translation.)

ABBASS KOOLEE KHAN, &c., special Peesh Khidmet to our Royal person, being honoured by our Royal favour, let him know that as from the day he entered in youth and received an appointment in the service of this Government, he has always shown himself peculiarly adapted for employment, has always executed what was entrusted to him with fidelity, has demonstrated his capacity in conducting to a conclusion the affairs entrusted to him in such a

manner as to excite the admiration of the wisest of our servants, and whenever any difficult affairs have been confided to his guidance by the Ministers of our Government, has even more fully displayed to us his good conduct, has never shown any remissness in his duties, and having executed them in the most complete manner, has acquired an increase of rank, and gained by his great fidelity the esteem of the King of Kings; in truth, being considered by us one of our wise and devoted servants, and having complete confidence in his good conduct;

Therefore, having this confidence in him, we have at the present time dismissed him from our presence, and appointed him to proceed to Herat, there to supervise the affairs of Syed Mahomed Khan, Zuheer-ood-Dowleh, the Comptroller of Herat, and to give him every aid and assistance, so that the latter may have the most absolute authority in the government of that place; and if any defect in his affairs should arise, he shall act in conformity with what the former considers advisable, and thus the affairs of the ryots, the servants of Government, the troops, the various districts, and the tribes, be put in order. No one is to act contrary to his commands, and the affairs of Herat are to be put in a better state than they were under the late Zuheer-ood-Dowleh (Yar Mahomed Khan).

He (Abbass Koolee Khan) must not for a moment lose sight of the affairs of Syed Mahomed Khan, and he must arrange them, and according to what has been written in full to the Ministers of our Government by Syed Mahomed Khan, that person will not overstep whatever Abbass Koolee Khan considers expedient.

By this firman Abbass Koolee Khan is appointed to reside in the city of Herat, and to exert himself to the utmost in giving solidity to the affairs of Syed Mahomed Khan, Zuheer-ood-Dowleh.

Translated by
(Signed) Wm. Taylour Thomson.

No. 32.

Lieutenant-Colonel Sheil to the Earl of Malmesbury.—(*Received January* 5, 1853.)

(Extract.) *Tehran, November* 21, 1852.

HAVING heard from a quarter on which I could rely, that Sam Khan, the late Persian Agent in Herat, had marched to that city with a body of troops, I addressed a note to the Sedr Azim, asking for an explanation of this movement. In his reply, his Excellency says that the above officer had acted not only without orders from the Persian Ministers, but entirely in opposition to their wishes, and that an express messenger had been dispatched to recall Sam Khan without delay.

The Sedr stated verbally, that the force accompanying Sam Khan consisted only of his own tribe, amounting to about 800 or 1,000 horse. His Excellency added, that this occurrence could only be attributed to the intrigues of the Prince Governor of Khorassan, who, apprehending his recall from that Province, had designedly prepared this new difficulty in order to make himself necessary to the Persian Minister, and prolong the duration of his Government.

If the affirmation of the Sedr Azim were deserving of the slightest credit, there would appear to be some truth in his declaration, that Sam Khan had made this movement without orders from Tehran. The Shah publicly proclaimed his indignation at his conduct, bestowing at the same time unqualified censure on his uncle, the Prince Governor of Khorassan, for having thus led the Persian Government into a fresh dilemma.

I have the honour to inclose, for your Lordship's information, a translation of the notes which have passed between the Sedr Azim and me on this occasion.

Inclosure 1 in No. 32.

Lieutenant-Colonel Sheil to the Sedr Azim.

November 19, 1852.

I HAVE heard from a credible source that Sam Khan has marched to Herat with a body of troops. As this movement is at variance with the former and recent declarations of the Persian Government, I request your Excellency will afford me an explanation of this expedition, for the information of Her Majesty's Government.

Inclosure 2 in No. 32.

The Sedr Azim to Lieutenant-Colonel Sheil.

(Translation.) *November* 20, 1852.

I HAVE had the honour to receive the letter which your Excellency addressed to me on the 19th instant, regarding the movement of Sam Khan, Elkhanee, to Herat.

The fact is, that the Persian Ministers also look upon such a proceeding, should it be true, as very strange and extraordinary, and they are at a loss to conceive how such a step could have been taken without their permission, and in opposition to their instructions. His Majesty the Shah feels highly displeased at it too, and has, therefore, solely to prove his friendship for the British Government and to gratify it, dispatched Meer Abu Fatteh Khan, one of his Tofengdars (special body-guard), with all haste to Meshed. He bears most peremptory orders to the Prince Governor to send Sam Khan to the capital, without a moment's delay; and, moreover, he is instructed, in case of the Herat Khans not having been released before his arrival in Meshed, to set them at liberty at once, and let them be sent to Tehran. It is quite clear that the Ministers of this Government will never depart from any engagement they may have entered into.

From reports which have reached the Persian Ministers, it appears that Kohendil Khan (the Ruler of Candahar) and Dost Mahomed Khan (of Cabul) having become reconciled to each other, have marched against Ferrah and Sebzar, and are again throwing the affairs of Herat, Khorassan, and the frontiers, into confusion. Your Excellency has repeatedly been informed, before now, that in the event of the Candaharees not evacuating Ferrah and Sebzar, or of fresh disorders arising in the affairs of Herat, troops would be dispatched by this Government to these places, but without going to Herat, to compel the Candaharees to retire, and to adjust matters in that quarter; and having done so, they would be withdrawn. If, therefore, Kohendil Khan has again commenced to throw the affairs of Herat into confusion, thus rendering disturbed and disordered the affairs of Khorassan, and will not desist from doing so, the Persian Ministers are under the necessity of acting in the way they mentioned, for the purpose of quelling such disturbance, and to drive away the Candaharees from Ferrah and Sebzar. When they have succeeded in doing this, without going to Herat, they will withdraw their troops.

Translated by
(Signed) Ronald F. Thomson.

Inclosure 3 in No. 32.

Lieutenant-Colonel Sheil to the Sedr Azim.

November 21, 1852.

YOUR Excellency's letter of the 20th November has reached me. I shall report to my Government the statement of the Persian Cabinet relative to the movement of Sam Khan to Herat without the orders of the Persian Ministers, and the dispatch of Meer Abu Fatteh Khan to recall that officer.

With regard to the Herat Khans in Meshed, your Excellency's declaration that they are directed to be set at liberty is at variance with your statement that they are to be brought to Tehran. If they are at freedom, why are they to be conveyed here? and if they are to be brought to Tehran, how can they be said to be free?

No. 33.

Lieutenant-Colonel Sheil to the Earl of Malmesbury.—(*Received January* 31, 1853.)

(Extract.) *Tehran, December* 2, 1852.

YESTERDAY the Sedr Azim read to me a letter from the Prince Governor of Khorassan, reporting that according to his Excellency's instructions he had recalled Sam Khan with the troops accompanying him, amounting apparently to about 1,200 men, from Herat, and that the above Chief had arrived within a short distance of Meshed.

No. 34.

Lieutenant-Colonel Sheil to the Earl of Malmesbury.—(*Received March* 2.)

(Extract.) *Tehran, January* 5, 1853.

IN delivering to the Persian Prime Minister a copy and translation of your Lordship's despatch of the 27th of October, I addressed to him, at the same time, a letter, of which I have the honour to inclose a copy; also a copy of a letter I subsequently wrote to his Excellency.

I have had several interviews recently with the Sedr Azim in connection with the despatch above referred to. In words his Excellency was sufficiently yielding. Far from its being the desire of the Persian Government, he said, to enter into collision with Great Britain, the idea of even coldness between the two Cabinets was highly afflicting to the Shah, who was sensible that his weakness would not allow him to dispense with the friendship of the Sovereign of England.

In discussing the mode in which the confidence of Her Majesty's Government was to be regained after so many breaches of faith, I suggested that Persia should agree not to send troops to Herat, excepting with the concurrence of Her Majesty's Government. This the Sedr Azim declined absolutely, saying it was the firm intention of Persia to oppose any aggression on that State, from Candahar or Cabul, or any other foreign Power, meaning Great Britain. Finding him urgent on this point, I suggested that he should conform to the above arrangement, reserving the right of Persia to lend assistance in the event of the occurrence of either of the contingencies alluded to; in which case the Persian troops were not to enter the city, and were to retire to Persia the moment the enemy should withdraw, and that the Persian camp should be accompanied by a member of this Misson to maintain the observance of the engagements of the Persian Government. The latter clause he rejected altogether. His Excellency pretended to fear the presence of an English officer, lest the Persian army should be led into embarrassment or danger through means of his secret communications and intrigues with the Chiefs of Candahar and Cabul.

This transparent fiction revealed, it seemed to me, the insincerity of any assurances the Persian Government might offer at the present juncture.

Pursuing his usual habits of duplicity, the Sedr Azim proposed that I should undertake the delivery of a letter from the Shah to Syed Mahomed Khan, by dispatching it to Herat under the charge of a courier of this Mission. He, however, afterwards revoked his own proposal, denying he had ever made it, and would not assent to this, the only secure way of the genuine letter reaching its destination.

In the various instances of a disregard of engagements of which the Persian Ministers have been convicted in connection with Herat, the Prince Governor of Khorassan has been made to bear the chief burden, by imputations of disobedience of orders. Thus, the non-liberation of the Herat Khans, the recent march of Sam Khan towards Herat, and even the entrance of the Persian troops within

the Herat territory, were attributed to the reckless wilfulness of the Prince. I naturally proposed that the recurrence of similar conduct should be threatened with punishment, but this was declined.

The Persian Minister has agreed to insert in the "Tehran Gazette," a recantation of the announcement formerly made in that journal, of the annexation of Herat to Persia. I offered to forego this humiliating publication on certain conditions. These he declined, and his Excellency afterwards affirmed that he had never assented to the proposal. Thinking it likely that your Lordship's views are directed to practical advantages rather than to the humiliation of this Government, well as its faithlessness may deserve retaliation, I have not pressed this matter.

I have troubled your Lordship with these details to enable you to form an opinion of the temper of the Persian Government, and of the likelihood of its adhering to the engagements it may hereafter contract.

After a great deal of discussion, an arrangement was entered into by the Prime Minister, by which he was to address me a letter containing certain conditions, and the draft of a letter to be addressed by the Shah to Syed Mahomed Khan. I have the honour to inclose translations of both these documents. With the exception of some points not defined with sufficient clearness, the engagements therein of the Persian Government, so far as they go, appear to me satisfactory, if they were really carried into execution, and up to yesterday, the understanding between the Sedr Azim and me was that this arrangement should have effect. But yesterday he sent me a message that, unless I signed a document of a similar nature, engaging that Great Britain should in the same manner abstain from all interference in Herat, and indeed in Affghanistan in general, he would revoke the agreement he had contracted, and enter into no engagement.

At an interview I had to-day with his Excellency, he repeated the same language. Sam Khan, the former Persian Agent in Herat, has arrived in Tehran, and in order to exaggerate his own services, he seems to have affirmed that the English Government had been busy in fomenting intrigues in that city. Amongst other statements, he averred that Fattee Mahomed Khan had offered 100,000 tomans if Syed Mahomed Khan would accept of English protection, and issue the coinage in the name of Her Majesty.

I told the Sedr Azim that these fabrications, and this deliberate breach of a formal agreement, would confirm the conviction of Her Majesty's Government of the profound insincerity of the Persian Cabinet; that the English Government had no intention whatever of disturbing the internal government of Herat; that this was proved by its abstaining, until the last moment, from making its last announcement to the Persian Government, instead of doing so at an earlier stage; but that it was preposterous and out of the question to claim from it an engagement of the kind the Persian Government pretended to require. For in the first place, no act had proceeded from Great Britain which should render such an engagement more necessary now than at any time during the last ten years; and next, that it was the repeated acts of duplicity on the part of the Persian Government which rendered some guarantee, or, at all events, some formal assurances, necessary, with reference to its future proceedings; and finally, it was for the Persian Government to judge whether it would adhere to its recent agreement, and replace its relations with England on their former footing, or whether it would take the risk of encountering the effects of the displeasure alluded to in your Lordship's despatch of the 27th of October.

I did not neglect to remind the Persian Minister, that the abandonment of Affghanistan at the moment of victory, and the entire cessation of relations with that country, were a clear evidence of the absence of all ulterior views on the part of Great Britain.

My observations were useless. The Sedr Azim adhered to his determination, and the discussion was closed by my intimating that I would report to your Lordship the resolution of the Persian Government.

So formal an announcement on the part of the Persian Minister appears to me to oblige me to remain quiescent, for the present at least, but I shall not fail to take steps for operating indirectly on the fears of the Persian Government, by making very public the state of the relations between the two Governments, and by other means.

Although it may be desirable to make another experiment of the sincerity of the Shah's Government in professing to relinquish the virtual possession of

Herat, still I think that no reliance is to be placed in its assurances, and that its object is merely to temporize in order to escape from a present evil.

The weakness of Syed Mahomed Khan, not only with reference to his external relations, but also with regard to his internal government, will always urge him to invite the closest connection with Persia, and the forbearance of Persia under such temptations seems more than it would be judicious to calculate on.

Inclosure 1 in No. 34.

Lieutenant-Colonel Sheil to the Sedr Azim.

December 17, 1852.

IN transmitting to the Persian Ministers, by orders of Her Majesty's Government, the accompanying copy and translation of a despatch from the Earl of Malmesbury, relative to the proceedings of the Persian Cabinet in connection with Herat, I take the opportunity of offering some remarks for your Excellency's consideration.

The Government which betrays its faith, whether in the letter or the spirit, forfeits all claim to confidence, and can only retrieve its reputation by its acts, not by its words or its assurances. This is the position in which the Persian Government has placed itself with regard to Great Britain. If it desires to extricate itself from that position, and to shun the embarrassments which will inevitably follow, and of which I long since forewarned the Persian Ministers, they will at once adopt the path indicated as well by their own promises as by Her Majesty's Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs. The communication of his Lordship deserves the solemn reflection and grave deliberation of the Persian Ministers. Let them meditate on the feelings testified in that document.

The attention of the Persian Cabinet will, no doubt, be arrested by the announcement of the Secretary of State, that unless Persia withdraws from interference in the internal affairs of Herat, no Persian Representative will be admitted to political intercourse with Her Majesty's Ministers, and by the warning which the same communication conveys of other consequences impending from a persistence in a breach of the spirit of their engagements. The Persian Cabinet may rely on the determination of Great Britain not to allow the Persian Government to exercise any control, whether by force, by negotiation, or by management, over any portion of Affghanistan.

Again I repeat to them my advice to seize the present moment for recovering their forfeited reputation, and for restoring their altered relations with Great Britain to their former state.

Translated by
(Signed) Ronald F. Thomson.

Inclosure 2 in No. 34.

Lieutenant-Colonel Sheil to the Sedr Azim.

December 31, 1852.

THERE are some points connected with the discussions I have held with your Excellency, and with the interview Mr. Thomson had with you yesterday, which require to be brought to your attention, for which purpose Meerza Hoossein Koolee, the Persian Secretary of this Mission, will wait on you.

The present contingency is one which calls for the mature reflection of the Persian Government on the expediency of an unreserved adoption of the views of the British Government. Your Excellency would perhaps derive advantage from a fresh perusal of the Earl of Malmesbury's despatch; and I renew my earnest recommendation to note the consequences which are there indicated by pursuing a course opposed to those views, particularly with reference to the interference of this Government in the internal affairs of Herat, on which question the British Cabinet has intimated its intentions with explicitness.

Inclosure 3 in No. 34.

The Sedr Azim to Lieutenant-Colonel Sheil.

(Translation.)

THE Persian Government engages not to send troops to the Herat territory without the knowledge and concurrence of the British Government, unless when Herat has been attacked by an army from abroad—that is, from Cabul, or Candahar, or other foreign Government. In the event of dispatching troops under such circumstances the Persian Government engages that the said troops shall not enter the city of Herat, and that as soon as the invading troops return towards their own country, the Persian army shall immediately return to the Persian soil.

The Persian Government also settles that it will not, by any means whatsoever, interfere in the internal affairs of Herat, and in like manner as regards taking possession, annexing, or governing; except that the same amount of interference which existed between the two parties in the time of the late Zuheer-ood-dowleh, Yar Mahomed Khan, shall henceforward, as formerly, be in force. The Persian Government agrees to write a letter in the above sense to Syed Mahomed Khan, and that it shall be presented to that person jointly (or in concert) with a person belonging to the British Mission, who may be in Meshed.

The Persian Government also settles to renounce (or abandon) the pretension and demand to the coinage and "khootbeh" (prayer for the Shah) or any other mark whatever of the people of Herat being (Persian) subjects, or under the government of Persia, and to announce this agreement immediately to Syed Mahomed Khan.

It also agrees to recall Abbas Koolee Khan, of Pissiam (the Persian Vizier in Herat), when four months have expired from the date of his arrival there. He is not to be permanently resident. There is not to be a permanent Persian Agent in Herat. There is to be intercourse (going and coming) as in the time of the late Yar Mahomed Khan. There is also to be no permanent Agent from Herat in Persia. There is to be the same intercourse and enjoyment of privileges which mutually existed in the time of Kamran and Yar Mahomed Khan.

The Persian Government also agrees to liberate and leave unfettered, without reserve or condition, the whole of the Herat Khans who are in Meshed, or Tehran, or elsewhere, and henceforward not to receive, on any account, from Syed Mahomed, any criminals or prisoners, or persons accused of crimes—with the exception of such persons as Syed Mahomed Khan shall himself expel from Herat. If those persons should, of their own accord, come to Persia and wish to remain there, or enter its service, as in former times, they will be treated with favour and kindness.

Immediate and distinct orders will be issued to the Prince Governor of Khorassan to carry these engagements into effect.

Inclosure 4 in No. 34.

The Shah to Syed Mahomed Khan.

(Translation.)

AS the Persian Government never had any object with regard to Herat except to extend aid to it, as a recompense for the services rendered by the late Zuheer-ood-dowleh, Yar Mahomed Khan, therefore it is necessary that I should make you acquainted with my Royal sentiments.

These are, that the Ministers of the Persian Government at no time have had, or will have, any idea of taking possession of, or annexing, or governing, Herat, or of claiming the subjection of the people of Herat. Neither will they in any manner interfere in the internal affairs of Herat, in order that you may

be independent in your own country and affairs, without the interference of any one, whether of this Government or of any other.

On no account will we consent that the "khootbeh" should be read in our Royal name; likewise, with regard to the coinage, which is for the currency or for the traffic of Herat, we never will consent to its being struck in the name of His Majesty; but if, as in the time of the late Shah Kamran or the late Yar Mahomed Khan, it should be desired to send an offering in money, and that money should be coined in the Royal name, we have no objection, and it will be accepted.

In fact, that which is incumbent on His Majesty the Shah, in recompense of the services of the late Zuheer-ood-dowleh, is this, that if an army from abroad should attack Herat, the Persian Government will appoint an army to aid the Herat forces, which, having joined the Herat army outside of the city of Herat, and having expelled the foreign army from the Herat territory, will immediately return to the Persian territory.

No doubt, on being acquainted with these the real sentiments of His Majesty the Shah, you will act in conformity with what he has determined.

No. 35.

Lieutenant-Colonel Sheil to the Earl of Malmesbury.—(*Received March* 2.)

My Lord, *Tehran, January* 7, 1853.

LATE last night I received a letter from the Sedr Azim demanding officially that Great Britain should disclaim formally all right or intention to interfere in the affairs of Herat, and stating that when this promise had been given, Persia would be willing to enter into engagements to the same effect.

The same letter expressed the expectation of the Persian Cabinet of an apology from Her Majesty's Government for the treatment of Sheffee Khan in suspending relations with him.

The immediate departure of the Turkish Ambassador's messenger prevents me from transmitting a translation of this paper on the present occasion.

Besides which, your Lordship having been named in two places without the terms of courtesy and respect invariably employed in official papers, an unsuitable appellation being substituted, I have been obliged to return the letter to the Sedr Azim for correction.

I have, &c.
(Signed) JUSTIN SHEIL.

No. 36.

Lieutenant-Colonel Sheil to the Earl of Malmesbury.—(*Received March* 11.)

(Extract.) *Tehran, January* 13, 1853.

WITH reference to my despatch of the 7th of January, in which I reported that the Persian Government had made a demand in writing, that Great Britain should abstain from interfering in the affairs of Herat, I have the honour to inclose a translation of the above letter from the Sedr Azim, and a translation of subsequent correspondence which passed between his Excellency and me.

Your Lordship will observe the determination expressed by the Persian Government not to adhere to the arrangement the Sedr Azim concluded with me, and to require from Her Majesty's Government a corresponding engagement, not simply to abstain from interference with the internal government of Herat, but to refrain from entertaining any relations with that Principality. This proposal can only be regarded as an evasion to escape from an arrangement which was made under the first impulse produced by your Lordship's despatch of the 27th October; but with the usual levity of Persians, as the consequences

of which a warning is therein conveyed are not immediate, it is hoped some accident may effect a change in the sentiments of Her Majesty's Government.

However right it may be to make a fresh essay of the sincerity of the professions of the Persian Government, I take the liberty of observing that, in one sense, it is not to be regretted that it should have recoiled from concluding the arrangement referred to. To my mind, it is certain that the Persian Government has no real intention of withdrawing its control over Herat; the utmost it meditates is a temporary expedient to rid itself of the evil of to-day, to lull the British Government, and renew the course it has run during the last year and a-half.

If the Persian Government had adhered to the arrangement it contracted, in my estimation Her Majesty's Government would not have extricated itself from embarrassment. The faculty of sending troops under pretence of supporting the Government of Syed Mahomed Khan against external aggression, opens the door to unceasing altercation. There would be a perpetual necessity for remonstrance to force this Government to adhere to its engagements. Irritation and contention would never cease, and Great Britain would lose all influence at this Court, or, to use language more correct, would never regain the influence or weight of which these discussions have deprived her.

I hope it may not be out of place to offer an opinion and a suggestion, which perhaps my long experience may justify. If Her Majesty's Government desires to preserve the integrity of Herat, this end is to be accomplished only by excluding Persia altogether from Affghanistan; by resisting the dispatch of troops to Herat on any pretext whatever, and by forcing Persia to renounce all political relations with that State, so far as the maintenance or reception of Agents is concerned. During the rule of Shah Kamran and Yar Mahomed Khan, the predecessors of Syed Mahomed Khan, no Persian Agent resided at that Court. From time to time, temporary Agents were reciprocally sent to offer compliments and presents, but even this occasional intercourse would, I consider, lead to embarrassment. Persia maintains no Agent at Merve or Bokhara, or Meimena, or Balkh, or among the independent tribes on her eastern or north-eastern frontier.

As to the mode by which Persia could be urged to the acceptance of such conditions, if the removal of the Mission were inadequate for its attainment, the occupation of the Island of Kharg, or Karrack, would, I conceive, accomplish the object in view.

This small island is near the head of the Persian Gulf, about thirty miles from Bushire. In the unhealthy climate of that sea, it is the most salubrious spot. It has a good harbour and contains excellent water, from which Bushire is chiefly supplied. From its position, it commands the mouths of the Shat-ool-Arab, or joint stream of the Euphrates and Tigris, and in English hands is fitted to exercise control over the coast on both sides of the Gulf. I make no comment on the advantages which commerce would hereafter derive from such a position.

I do not mean to convey the opinion that Karrack is an equivalent for the transfer of Herat to Persia. That island is certainly, however, not without value.

Should the Persian Cabinet again come forward with an offer to adhere to the arrangement adverted to so often, I would agree to it. This I should do with more confidence from my conviction that your Lordship could reject the entire arrangement peremptorily, without any change being caused to my own position personally, or to that of whoever may be at the head of this Mission.

To avoid misconstruction, and in justification of myself, lest I should be supposed to sanction, under any circumstances, a movement of Persian troops to Herat, I think it right to mention that, with reference to the first point in the arrangement with the Sedr Azim, I reminded the Persian Ministers that the advance of Persian troops to Herat, under any pretext, was repugnant to Her Majesty's Government, as they would perceive was recorded in your Lordship's despatch of which a copy was in their possession.

Inclosure 1 in No. 36.

The Sedr Azim to Lieutenant-Colonel Sheil.

(Translation.) *January* 6, 1853.

I HAVE received along with your Excellency's letter, the letter of his Excellency, &c., Lord Malmesbury, British Minister for Foreign Affairs, in its original form, accompanied by a translation, and I have thoroughly understood their contents. It is with the deepest astonishment I regret to learn that as yet the real conduct of the Persian Ministers has not been understood by his Excellency, and that he should have adopted so very harsh, cold, and unexpected a course. All that the British Government demands is, that for certain reasons the Persian Government should desist from taking possession of Herat (which in addition to its having *ab antiquo* ever been, as all the world knows, Persian territory, and reckoned a portion of the province of Khorassan, has during the present reign been placed by the petition of the whole of the chief people and inhabitants of that place, the clergy, the authorities, public servants, and troops, under the protection of this Government), that it should not station any garrison there, that the governor of that place should be a native of Affghanistan, that it should not take sovereign possession of the said territory, and that until these demands had been actually carried into execution, the British Ministers could hold no political or diplomatic relations with Sheffee Khan, the Persian Chargé d'Affaires.

Your Excellency is at present well aware that the Persian Ministers, in order to preserve the friendship of the British Government, to give it satisfaction and to increase the friendly relations between the two Governments, have accepted by letter these three demands; they are actually carried into effect, and at the present moment there is not in any portion of these three demands anything wanting, either apparent or concealed. Moreover, if in order to give greater assurance to the British Ministers, your Excellency should make the friendly request that the three demands be written in greater detail in a separate communication, to be ratified by His Majesty the Shah and delivered to your Excellency, it will not be withheld, on the condition that your Excellency also shall give a written engagement that on the part of the British Government too, neither by word nor deed, openly or underhand, will it interfere in the affairs of Herat or its dependencies. These points being established, how is it suitable that the Ministers of the British Government, whose justice is celebrated all over the world, and with whom friendship has existed for many years, who, with great trouble and expense, have raised the feelings of unanimity to the highest pitch between the two Governments, should now, without any right or just reason, forget what friendship demands, and, when the warmest feelings of friendship are entertained by this Government, act with coldness and distance, give so degrading a dismissal to the Persian Agent residing at its Court, and send such instructions to your Excellency? In justice, if his Excellency Lord Malmesbury should become acquainted with the real state of the case, and with the sentiments and conduct of this Government, he ought, according to right, to apologize. With regard to his Excellency's repeated statements in his letter that the Persian Ministers had not kept faith on the subject of Herat with the engagements and official documents they had given, and that they had not acted up to the assurances they had given on that subject, what promises or vouchers, besides the three demands, have been given on our part to you, and what now remains unfulfilled? Let those documents and engagements be produced, and if any of them be found (unfulfilled), they will undoubtedly be accepted most willingly and in the most friendly spirit by the Persian Ministers. It makes a great impression on my mind that from the date of His Majesty's accession up the present time, the Persian Ministers should have been exerting themselves constantly to the utmost to give satisfaction to the British Ministers, and have never, according to their belief, remitted in those exertions, and still, all at once, without any reason or event having occurred, the latter should disregard the claims acquired by this Government by right of friendship, and suddenly adopt a cold and distant line of conduct, which, in truth, is derogatory to the dignity of the Persian Ministers. Conduct such as this, bears no resemblance to the usual

conduct of the British Ministers, and in the eyes of the people appears both strange and new. No doubt they are the judges of what course they will pursue in their own affairs, but in that which friendship and unanimity, prompted by heartfelt inclination, demands, force and aversion do no enter.

I beg you will be so good as to forward by the earliest opportunity to London, a copy of this letter, with a correct translation, to his Excellency Lord Malmesbury, and as His Majesty had requested by an autograph note to be informed of what passed during my interview with your Excellency two days ago, and I had represented the circumstances, I received subsequently another autograph note from His Majesty, a copy of which is transmitted herewith to your Excellency.

Translated by
(Signed) Wm. Taylour Thomson.

Inclosure 2 in No. 36.

Autograph Note from the Shah to the Sedr Azim.*

(Translation.) *January* 6, 1853.

I HAVE become acquainted with what passed at your interview with his Excellency the (British) Minister. No doubt that which is known to every one is also known to his Excellency; namely, that over and above that Herat, *ab antiquo*, has always been an integral portion of the Persian dominions, under the name of Eastern Khorassan, under our reign too, the whole of the Chiefs and people of that place, the governing and the governed, the troops, servants, clergy and authorities, confessed and acknowledged in a petition their being our subjects and servants, and placed themselves, by their own urgent solicitation, under our protection. But my Ministers, solely at the friendly request of the British Ministers, and in order to gratify them, disregarded this, their clear and established right, and accepted the arrangement which your Excellency and his Excellency Lord Malmesbury had proposed; which is to be written and ratified hereafter, on the condition that his Excellency Lord Malmesbury too shall give an official document (to the effect) that the British Government shall never, at any time or in any manner, interfere with Herat or its dependencies, and that it shall remain in the condition of an independent Government, in order that the state of internal order in the country and in Khorassan be not disturbed.

In truth, when we, solely for the friendship and at the friendly request of the British Government, yield up our so plainly established rights, and have no other view in Herat beyond its protection, and the intercourse which formerly existed, although everything is possible to us, it is out of place that they should be dissatisfied and wish to act with coldness. It is clear that his Excellency the Minister Plenipotentiary, after these details, and the engagements given by you, will not stand out in giving a document which will inspire the Ministers of this Government with confidence. You will state the circumstances to his Excellency the Minister Plenipotentiary, in order that he may be acquainted with them, and if he should not join you, that it may be clear to the whole world that no objection whatever had been made on our part, that we acted everywhere as a friend, and they did not.

Translated by
(Signed) Wm. Taylour Thomson.

Inclosure 3 in No. 36.

Lieutenant-Colonel Sheil to the Sedr Azim.

January 10, 1853.

I RECEIVED yesterday your Excellency's letter of the 6th of January. From the copy and translation of the despatch of the Earl of Malmesbury,

* This is called an autograph, but it is not so; it is a letter written by the Government in the Shah's name.

in the hands of the Persian Ministers, they will understand the estimation in which their good faith is held by the British Cabinet. The Persian Ministers ought to deliberate whether, by a fresh repetition of the conduct which called forth such an expression of the sentiments of Her Majesty's Ministers, confidence will be restored, or whether it is more likely that the breach will be widened.

Your Excellency concluded with me various arrangements, certainly not free from objection as far as Great Britain was concerned, but which, nevertheless, if executed in a different spirit from the previous engagements of the Persian Government, would have afforded a prospect of the restoration of the friendly relations hitherto subsisting between Great Britain and Persia. But this arrangement has been broken in the most abrupt manner, and on pretences the most unmeaning.

As I said to you in conversation, neither recently nor within the last ten years has Great Britain maintained any connection with Herat, or adopted any measures towards that State, to make it necessary to call on it for a formal explanation with relation to a speculative and remote future. The British dominions are separated from Herat by hundreds of miles, and the claim made by the Persian Government is, in plain language, nothing but an undisguised pretext to escape from its own engagement. I repeat what I said in conversation, that Great Britain has no desire nor intention to meddle with Herat; and it is most certain that so long as another Power does not interfere with that country, Her Majesty's Government will not embroil itself in its affairs. If the Persian Government had followed the same course, it would be equally unnecessary to claim from it any specific declaration. But it is the system adopted by this Cabinet, of giving the most explicit assurances and promises relative to its intentions, and then repeatedly breaking these promises, with the utmost disregard of good faith, and of which the late arrangement made by your Excellency is a glaring instance, which has rendered it incumbent to require a more formal arrangement. If the Persian Government had not followed the line of conduct it has adopted, and if it had adhered to the promises it repeatedly made several months ago to the British Government, it is quite clear that the present discussions would be unnecessary, and would never have taken place.

Two points in particular ought to engage the attention of the Persian Ministers. The rupture of the arrangement alluded to will confirm the suspicions of the British Government, and be an evidence to it of a fresh attempt to escape from its engagements. Next, if the Persian Cabinet is sincere in its professions of recognizing Herat as an independent State, and in its assurances of abstaining from any interference in its internal affairs, the letter you proposed to write to me is enough, and more than enough, to maintain all the privileges which Persia has a right to claim in an independent State. If Persia aspires to more, then its professions are insincere; but they will no longer impose on Great Britain. The Persian Ministers may be assured that the present moment is not one for trifling, or for throwing away time in evasive correspondence.

Your Excellency calls on me to state in what instances this Government has broken its promises. You will find them detailed in the Earl of Malmesbury's despatch of the 27th of August, of which a copy and translation are in your possession. As for the verbal promises of the Persian Government in your own person, they altogether exceed enumeration.

As I know the faithlessness of your Excellency's memory, owing to the weight and extent of your occupations, I take the opportunity of inclosing a copy of the draft of the letter you agreed to write to me, and of the letter which was to be addressed by His Majesty the Shah to his Excellency Syed Mahomed Khan.

Translated into Persian by
(Signed) RONALD F. THOMSON.

Inclosure 4 in No. 36.

The Sedr Azim to Lieutenant-Colonel Sheil.

(Translation.) *January* 13, 1853.

I HAVE received your Excellency's letter of the 9th instant, and every paragraph in it has caused me fresh surprise and deep regret. I do not know with what intention your Excellency has changed your conduct at the present time. In your official communications you have repeatedly and openly accused the Ministers of this Government with acting contrary to their engagements, with being inconsistent and inconsiderate, and in a most slighting manner.

It has been repeatedly mentioned to you in writing that if your Excellency has in your possession any document or bond relative to Herat, proving that the Persian Ministers pay no attention to its stipulations, and now act contrary to it, let it be produced, so that the authenticity of the document and the assertions of both parties become known to the whole world. It is most surprising and deeply to be regretted that when the Ministers of this Government, solely to preserve the friendship of the British Government, have closed their eyes to their own rights, should still submit patiently to such disagreeable and degrading expressions, and be set down in writing as inconsistent and regardless of their engagements.

It would appear that your Excelleney's translator and writer is not very competent or perfect in the Persian language. Thus, before my former letter reached you, you stated that inferior and uncourteous titles had been applied to his Excellency, &c., the Minister for Foreign Affairs of the British Government, and it appears that you alluded to "Mushar-un-alyh" having been used for "Maazzum-alyh."* Now, it is impossible to write a more respectful letter than the one in question, in the Persian language. "Mushar-un-alyh" † is generally applied in writing to a Sovereign, and thus they say the "Mushar-un-alyh Government." Your Excellency's being so very strict and particular causes astonishment, and (Heaven forbid it should be so!) it appears as if you were seeking for a pretext. If it were not so, a discussion such as this is very unlike your Excelleney's usual habit of courtesy and justice, and is full of menace.

Mr. (Sir Harford) Jones, Sir Gore Ouseley, and Mr. Ellis, Ministers Plenipotentiary of England, concluded two or three Treaties with the Persian Government, and in each of them it is stipulated and distinctly stated that if hostilities should arise between the Persian Government and Affghanistan, the British Government would not interfere unless the Persian Government should itself desire it. Those Treaties have been ratified by several Sovereigns, and have been acted upon for many years. Notwithstanding that Herat, by works on history and geography, is reckoned the undisputed territory of the Persian Government, and a portion of the Province of Khorassan, and at the present time its inhabitants, without the exertion of any violence, have themselves, of their own free will and accord, come under the protection of this Government; still, solely out of regard for the friendship of the British Government, the Persian Ministers have foregone (closed their eyes to) established rights of this nature, and have accepted the three demands of the British Government, which are: not establishing a garrison of Persian troops in Herat, not taking sovereign possession of the said territory, and that the Governor of the place shall be an Affghan. All this being the case, a litlte reflection will show that on our part there has been no disregard of engagements.

Moreover, your Excelleney has in your own letters repeatedly employed the words "breaking engagements," and applied those terms to the Persian Ministers. I do not know what meaning to apply to those expressions. Is it not in your Excellency's recollection that the expressions I used in conversation were used with the view of their perhaps leading to some arrangement, and it was

* The word employed was unquestionably objectionable, and having been used at the present moment, seemed to be designed. The expression was corrected in the last note of the Sedr Azim. It was a phrase which would be addressed to a person of the rank of the Persian Secretary of this Mission. If it were used to the Sedr Azim himself, it would give him deep offence.

† This is the expression that was applied to Lord Malmesbury, and the assertion that it is even used to a Sovereign is wholly untrue.

distinctly stated by me,* that until your Excellency and myself had agreed (to the terms), and they had been submitted to and approved by His Majesty, they were not valid. I am astonished that words used in conversation, and not yet settled between me and your Excellency, setting aside their not having been represented to His Majesty and accepted by him, should be called an engagement; and how can their not being confirmed be styled "breaking an engagement," or how can it be considered permissible to employ, with reference to this, the words "contrary to fact?"

With reference to your statement that the Persian Ministers would perceive from the translation of his Excellency Lord Malmesbury's letter, in what estimation the British Government held the Persian Minister's veracity, I dare say the fact may be as stated, because their knowledge is derived from your Excellency's statements and correspondence. If it were not so, the justice, straight-forwardness, and truth of the British Ministers do not admit that—having in view the conduct of the Ministers of this Government, they having observed and still observing the relations of friendship and unanimity with the British Government, more especially with regard to the question of Herat, to which the whole world has testified—should, Heaven forbid! close their eyes to a friendship of so many years' duration, and act with coldness and entirely give up the advantages they anticipated they would derive from the friendship of Persia. Your Excellency ought carefully to observe how unjustly and without proof, voucher or bond, you seek to obtain a convention from us, and refuse to give two lines in writing that the British Ministers will not in any manner interfere with Herat. If what has been said in conversation is correct, what necessity is there for standing out in giving the writing in question? but if it is not so, and the only object is to obtain a convention from us, then it will be established that the Persian Government has a right to take its own interests into consideration, and in this case it is not necessary to give a document: that would doubtless be an unfriendly act, and an easy matter ought not to be made one of difficulty.

I do not understand why, in your Excellency's letter, you employed the word "nameh."† The word "nameh" in this Government is used when applied to a letter from one Sovereign to another It has always been the practice of this Government, and is so still, to issue firmans to the late Kamram, the late Yar Mahomed Khan, and Syed Mahomed Khan, and they address and still address petitions to the Ministers of this Government. You always verbally and in writing state that the rights of this Government are to remain in force as heretofore, and such being the case, what is the meaning of asking for a "nameh?"

You stated your regret that my memory was weak. I thought you entertained a greater degree of friendship for me than to make such an insinuation, but my memory has, I imagine, not yet become so weak that it should be necessary to bring that circumstance to my recollection.

Translated by
(Signed) Wm. Taylour Thomson.

Inclosure 5 in No. 36.

Lieutenant-Colonel Sheil to the Sedr Azim.

(Translation.) *January* 14, 1853.

I HAVE had the honour to receive your Excellency's lengthy communication dated yesterday, relative to the discussions and agreement which have lately passed between you and me concerning the affairs of Herat. As it is not my design to inflict useless trouble on you or myself by entering into a correspondence leading to no results, I confine myself to the acknowledgment of the above letter.

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* Nothing of the kind happened, the Sedr made no such statement to Lieutenant-Colonel Sheil. The arrangement formed was not the result of one interview, but of repeated interviews, corrections, and alterations.

† The expression was used simply as implying that the Ruler of Herat was independent of Persia.

No. 37.

Lieutenant-Colonel Sheil to the Earl of Malmesbury.—(Received March 11.)

(Extract.) *Tehran, January 19, 1853.*

YESTERDAY I received a message from the Sedr Azim, to the effect that if I would send Meerza Hoossein Koolee, the Persian Secretary to this Mission, to his house, he was ready to conclude the arrangement he had recently made with me, relative to Herat, and forward it to me, sealed. When Meerza Hoossein Koolee waited on his Excellency, he proposed to seal another document, at total variance with the above original Agreement, including a sort of protest that "if Great Britain interfered in any manner whatever in the affairs of Herat, either openly or secretly, directly or indirectly," (literally, crookedly or straight,) this Agreement was to be considered annulled, and not to have taken place. After much discussion and remonstrance, the Sedr Azim said he would adhere to and seal the original Agreement.

To-day I received a letter from the Sedr Azim, inclosing a sealed document containing various conditions, of both which papers I have the honour to inclose translations. The latter corresponds with the document which he yesterday wanted to substitute for the original agreement, but which his Excellency subsequently withdrew.

A most studied ambiguity pervades nearly the whole of this proposed arrangement. It contains scarcely a clause that is not susceptible of a double interpretation, invariably favourable to the aggressive views of this Government. This ambiguity is much more apparent in the Persian original than is possible in an English translation.

In my opinion this arrangement, if concluded, would leave Her Majesty's Government in exactly the same position that it occupies at this moment. The previous assurances of Persia were as ample, explicit, and binding, as these, but they proved useless.

The arrangement contains, moreover, two serious omissions. It had been agreed that the Shah should write a letter to Syed Mahomed Khan, notifying the engagements which had been contracted, and that this letter should be sent to Herat, in conjunction with me. All this is thrown aside. It is therefore certain that notice of the arrangement would never reach the Ruler of Herat; if I had attempted to address him on the subject, or to convey a verbal intimation of its nature, Her Majesty's Government would be liable to the penalties threatened in the last clause of the Sedr Azim's new arrangement.

It was agreed that the present Persian Agent at Herat should be recalled after four months' residence. In the new arrangement no time is named for his withdrawal.

Under these circumstances I determined to take the responsibility of rejecting this proposal, and I accordingly returned the document to the Sedr Azim, as your Lordship will perceive from the accompanying translation of a letter I addressed to his Excellency.

Inclosure 1 in No. 37.

The Sedr Azim to Lieutenant-Colonel Sheil.

(Translation.) *January 19, 1853.*

THE Persian Government has derived and derives great advantages from the reputation of its friendship with the British Government, and it is greatly grieved at the report of there being a coldness or no intercourse with that Government.

Then such being the case, the Persian Government placed and places great value on the friendship of the British Government, and has always been and still is engaged in strengthening the bonds of friendship between the two Governments, and it never acquiesces in any other murmur being heard than that friendship. At the present time, contrary to the wishes of the Persian Government, a report has been diffused, and is in the mouths of the people, of coldness and displeasure on the part of the British Government. If this report

has been caused by the affair of Herat, the points—as stated in the letter of his Excellency Lord Malmesbury, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the British Government, a copy of which, with a translation, were inclosed in your Excellency's own communication, and sent to me—had been accepted by the Persian Ministers previous to the receipt of that letter, and had been actually all observed, and put in force. No troops had been or are stationed as a garrison in Herat; neither has a Governor been appointed by them to Herat; nor have they taken sovereign possession or occupation of Herat. Again, that in word and deed the British Government may be fully assured of the intentions of the Ministers of this Government, the points as written in the accompanying separate document, have been addressed to your Excellency, in order that you may take the trouble to send a copy and a translation of the articles in question to the Ministers of the British Government.

The Persian Ministers expect that, in the first place, your Excellency, with your knowledge of what consequences may ensue from the report of this coldness and displeasure, will as soon as possible endeavour to dispel it; and in the second place take steps (to free) Sheffee Khan, the Representative of this Government, from the unpleasant and degrading position in which he now finds himself, without any just reason, in London.

If the Ministers of this Government should not obtain from your Excellency a distinct assurance with regard to these two points, it is clear that the British Government has completely closed its eyes to the friendship of Persia, and is engaged in collecting means of annoying this Government. In this case, the least that Persia can do is not to allow its Representative in that country to remain longer in an abject and degrading position.

I have written this letter to your Excellency by order, and I await your reply.

Translated by

(Signed) Wm. Taylour Thomson.

Inclosure 2 in No. 37.

Proposed Arrangement by the Sedr Azim.

(Translation.)

THE Persian Government is not to send, on any account, troops to the Herat territory, unless when foreign troops invade Herat (and any disorder appears in the affairs of Herat), that is, from the direction of Cabul or Candahar, or other foreign country. In the event, too, of troops being sent, in that case the said troops are not to enter the city of Herat, and whenever the foreign troops return, and the disorder has been dispelled, the troops which have been sent are to return immediately towards their own territory and without delay, without occupying or taking possession. The dispatching of these troops, too, is solely for this purpose, that if Herat should become disturbed, without fail the affairs of Khorassan and the internal affairs of the country will become disturbed; and this too is a cause of great loss to the Persian Government; if this were not the case, the troops in question would not be sent.	THERE is no distinct engagement by Persia in this and some of the other Articles, nor is there a distinct promise given, as there would have been if the future tense of the verb had been used; the words within parentheses seem to have been studiously written with an obscure sense, in order to admit of two contingencies instead of one, that is, in the event of internal disorder.
The Persian Government, too, is not to interfere in any manner in the internal affairs of Herat, such as in taking possession of or assuming the sovereignty, or in governing, unless in	This, like the preceding Article, gives no distinct engagement or promise; the sense is also obscure. Some educated Persians would understand it to mean that the Shah in person, or his

so far as existed between the two parties during the life-time of the late Zuheer-ood-Dowleh, Yar Mahomed Khan, and the late Kamran, such as sending assistance of horse and foot in cases of necessity, either in person or by a General on his part; or as they always sent from time to time during the year petitions and offerings, and in like manner as in sending when expedient dresses of honour and firmans of favour, swords and decorations, and titles, to the Governor and the chief people and dignitaries, and on such like occasions, which must all continue as formerly to be in force. The reason why this intercourse, as formerly, is desired is solely that if they should assume independence and be completely hopeless and have no expectations from the Ministers of this Government, they will themselves raise mischief on that frontier.

General, may lead an army to aid Herat; others, that the Chief of Herat, or his General, may aid Persia; and others would maintain that the right was possessed by both parties. The indefinite phrase of maintaining such intercourse as existed in the time of Yar Mahomed Khan and Kamran, is studiously introduced in order, it would appear, to keep open the question of what that intercourse was. The late Sovereign of Herat is never styled Shah, but simply Kamran.

It would appear from this that Persia has no intention of recognising Herat as an independent State.

The Ministers of the Persian Government, too, abandon the demand for the coinage and the "khotbeh" or any other mark whatsoever of the people of that place being subjects or under the Government of Persia, and all their own rights, solely to give satisfaction to the British Government, with the exception of our Protectorate. But as Kamran coined money in the name of Fettee Alee Shah, and Syed Mahomed Khan, in the name of Nassir-ood-deen Shah and sent it to them and they accepted it, so also hereafter if they should send it in a similar manner, it will be accepted by His Majesty and not returned.

In this article also there is no specific engagement. The protectorate of Herat is also reserved.

They also engage to recall Abbass Koolee Khan, because it has appeared and been said that he had gone to manage the affairs of Government and take possession; but after him, a person, by way of superintending adviser, and to give notice of the state of organisation or disorganisation and to transmit letters, will always proceed there, remain and return, and* or another person will go. It is necessary that, as in the time of Kamran and Yar Mahomed Khan, whatever intercourse and privileges then existed, they remain always as formerly in full force.

Here there is an engagement; but again the intercourse and privileges which existed in the time of Kamran and Yar Mahomed Khan are insisted on.

* Probably intended to be written "baz," which would read "and then another."

The Persian Government too engages to set at liberty and leave unbridled, without condition and without exception, all the Herat Khans who are in Meshed or Tehran or elsewhere, and henceforward not in any manner to agree to imprison culprits or prisoners, or persons accused of crimes sent to hem by Syed Mahomed Khan, but

This is also an engagement, but it is stated that the Persian Government engages "not to agree to imprison persons sent to them by Syed Mahomed Khan;" it does not, however, say that it will not exercise any other mode of restraint, and this ambiguity is designedly employed, it would appear, to enable this Government to exercise

excepting persons whom Syed Mahomed Khan has himself expelled from Herat, and those persons should of their own free will come here, if they should wish to come and remain here or enter the service, as formerly, they will receive aid and be treated with friendship. Orders will be immediately issued to the Prince Governor of Khorassan to put in force these engagements, and in like manner they will announce these arrangements to Syed Mahomed Khan himself.

These engagements are in force and acted upon so long as the British Government, too, by no means whatsoever, openly or secretly, directly or indirectly, interferes in the affairs of Herat, and, if otherwise, this engagement is unwritten, non-existent, and invalid.

real restraint, without making use of a jail for that purpose.

Translated by
(Signed) Wm. Taylour Thomson.

Inclosure 3 in No. 37.

Lieutenant-Colonel Sheil to the Sedr Azim.

(Translation.) *January* 19, 1853.

THE points which your Excellency took the trouble of forwarding to me in your letter of to-day, relative to Herat, being altogether at variance with the arrangement you made with me, I cannot transmit them to Her Majesty's Government, and I, therefore, have the honour to return the document to your Excellency.

No. 38.

Lieutenant-Colonel Sheil to the Earl of Malmesbury.—(Received March 20.)

My Lord, *Tehran, January* 30, 1853.

I HAVE the honour to inclose, for your Lordship's information, a translation of further correspondence which has passed between the Persian Prime Minister and me relative to Herat, including a translation of an arrangement sealed by the Sedr Azim; a translation of a letter from his Excellency to Syed Mahomed Khan, the Ruler of Herat, notifying the substance of this arrangement, and a translation of a firman from the Shah to the above Chief in ratification of his Minister's communication.

This arrangement does not differ essentially from that which was first made by the Sedr Azim, and will, I hope, receive your Lordship's approbation. The chief deviations consist of a faculty on the part of Persia to receive, though not to demand authoritatively, assistance from Syed Mahomed Khan, in case of rebellion in the Shah's dominions, and a declaration that the engagements contracted by the Persian Government were to be considered annulled should Great Britain interfere in the internal affairs of Herat.

I propose to dispatch a person without delay to Meshed to proceed to Herat in company with the Persian messenger.

I have, &c.
(Signed) JUSTIN SHEIL.

Inclosure 1 in No. 38.

The Sadr Azim to Lieutenant-Colonel Sheil.

(Translation.) *January* 21, 1853.

I HAVE received your Excellency's letter, in which you state that the conditions I sent to you were entirely at variance with the arrangement I made with you; that, therefore, you were unable to transmit them to your Government, and that you returned them to me. I beg to state to your Excellency that if that which you call an arrangement between me and your Excellency was brought to a termination, no doubt you hold in your hands some voucher in conformity to which the name of an arrangement can be properly applied. I request you will be so good as to send me that voucher to enable me to act conformably: otherwise I ask your Excellency to declare with candour whether an affair which has not been concluded or brought to a settlement, and which, moreover, I explicitly told you in conversation was not to be regarded as of any value until it was finally closed, and which besides had not been brought to the notice of His Majesty the Shah, and of whose approval or disapproval I was consequently ignorant, can appropriately be entitled to the name of an arrangement, or be regarded as binding. It is most evident that if anything had passed between the Persian Ministers and your Excellency which could be deemed final, this Government, with a due regard to the friendly relations subsisting between the two Courts, would not hesitate to carry it into execution; they would immediately ratify and fulfil it. The position you have assumed, and by which you are resolved to abide, is a clear proof that I did not form any arrangement which could be considered final. Otherwise, what point was there remaining which should induce you to persist in maintaining that position (this passage is unintelligible to Persians)? Although I repeatedly said that my statements were made under the reservation of His Majesty's approval, from the very first you have attached to them the designation of a final adjustment.

It astonishes me very much that Meerza Hoossein Koolee should have rejected on your part one of the clauses which you yourself had distinctly promised to me you would agree to, and which was to be written when the whole affair was concluded. I do not know whether he has done this on his own part, or whether he had your Excellency's instructions, or whether he had a latitude.

In short, this affair has taken up too much correspondence. I request your Excellency either to send some one to me, or to receive a confidential person whom I will dispatch to hold a discussion with you, so that this question may be brought to a termination, and that this external coldness, which assuredly is contrary to the internal wishes of this Government, may cease.

Inclosure 2 in No. 38.

Lieutenant-Colonel Sheil to the Sadr Azim.

January 23, 1853.

I HAVE had the honour to receive your Excellency's letter of the 21st of January, in which you call on me to produce documentary evidence of your having concluded the arrangement so often referred to. I possess no voucher of this sort, as your Excellency well knows. If I did, I would not discuss the matter further. But I possess a voucher of another sort, which among men of honour is superior to any document—your own affirmation.

Your Excellency certainly made no reservation to me of the Shah's consent to the arrangement; if you had done so, I should have understood at once the uselessness of discussion, and that you had no serious object in view. Why should it have been required to refer to the Shah after such a number of conferences? It is well known what confidence your Sovereign reposes in your Excellency's talents, loyalty, and judgment, and that the interests of His Majesty are safe in your hands.

With regard to your reference to Meerza Hoossein Koolee, I can only say

that I entirely approve of his conduct. What passed between your Excellency and me was this: you required me to engage in writing that Great Britain should not interfere in the internal government of Herat, but I declined to do so, for the reasons already stated. I added that I would not reject a document, though it should contain a declaration by your Excellency that Persia would not consider the engagement in force if Great Britain usurped a control over the internal affairs of Herat. But I did not agree to, nor did you even hint at, such terms as your Excellency inserted, that Great Britain was to be excluded from holding any relations whatever, whether secretly or openly, directly or indirectly, with Herat. None of the great Powers of the world have ventured to tell Great Britain that she should hold no relations with an independent State.

According to the desire expressed by your Excellency, Mr. Thomson will have the honour of visiting you to-morrow, at any time you choose to appoint, but I may as well state, at once, my expectation that your Excellency should adhere to your arrangement. I sincerely trust that the result of that gentleman's interview will be to close the breach which has unfortunately taken place, and which, I will frankly confess, I consider detrimental to the interests of two Governments which have so many ties in common.

Translated into Persian by
(Signed) Wm. Taylour Thomson.

Inclosure 3 in No. 38.

The Sadr Azim to Lieutenant-Colonel Sheil.

(Translation.) *January* 23, 1853.

I HAVE received your Excellency's reply of yesterday's date to my communication. You stated therein that you considered my word and affirmation an important voucher, and that during the discussion there had been no restriction as to their being dependent on their being accepted and ratified by His Majesty the Shah. I have never withdrawn from what I have said, nor will I do so hereafter; but I am much surprised that with your Excellency's strong memory, you should have forgotten the expressions I had used in conversation. I stated not only once, but repeatedly, that every word I spoke was dependent on its being ratified and accepted by the Shah, and that I would make no representation to His Majesty on the subject until the terms had been adjusted between us. Meerza Hoossein Koolee, who was present on one occasion, has no doubt not forgotten the circumstance, and if you inquire of him, he will represent that I repeatedly made such a statement to your Excellency. With regard to your remark, that among men of honour, their word and affirmation are considered more than any voucher, your Excellency will, in justice, bear witness that in the whole of the current affairs between the two Governments, I have concluded without delay every engagement contracted with your Excellency which had no clause of reservation which was to be observed. Then, why in the present affair should I, Heaven forbid! retract, if, let it be supposed, I had concluded it?

With reference to your Excellency's giving an official engagement in writing for the non-interference of the British Government with Herat, as was arranged when the subject was previously discussed, besides your having entirely approved Meerza Hoossein Koolee's conduct, who denied (that such an arrangement had been made), your Excellency has, in your letter, introduced an article containing new matter and expressions. I shall recall to your Excellency's recollection the expressions you used on that occasion: "I have no permission from the Ministers of my own Government to write (an engagement), but you, in your own letter, may write whatever you please with regard to the non-interference of the British Government in Herat. I shall not object, and you can select and write in such terms as you think right." If your Excellency were to recall correctly to your memory the expressions used, you would, in justice, admit that these matters have remained well in my mind. You wrote that none of the great Governments had ever ventured to say that the British Government was to have no intercourse with an independent Government. Although many observations may be made on such a remark by your Excellency, and although I do not wish to give additional trouble to your Excellency, still I cannot

avoid expressing my great surprise at your statement; and I shall only trouble you by remarking, how does it happen that that great Government, which up to the present time had no communication with Herat, and, according to express Treaty, had no right to interfere itself or to prevent (another Government) from interfering, has now advanced such a demand as that Persia shall withdraw from the right it possessed, and still possesses, of interference with Herat? When the Persian Government has deemed its rights of no consequence in comparison with the friendship of the British Government, it is no doubt suitable that the British Government should not cause any injury to this Government, which has become satisfied with a small portion of the question, by giving such intimations as your Excellency has so distinctly expressed in your letter, and enable the Ministers of this Government to feel assured that no disturbance will arise in Khorassan, and that Herat will remain in its present condition.

[illegible] SON.

). 38.

it-Colonel Sheil.

January 25, 1853.

ur Excellency, herewith, the con-
:er having been submitted to His
our Excellency and myself, to our
letter which will be addressed and
owleh, the Governor of Herat; and
ole to acknowledge their having

MSON.

'o. 38.

*Government relative to Herat.**

January 25, 1853.

to send, on any account, troops to
at, that is, (troops) from the direc-

ctness of this translation, Mr. Murray was
inal, which translation is subjoined :—

—(*Received May* 13.)

Bagdad, April 2, 1857.

is conveyed to me in your note of January 9,
ginal Persian engagement respecting Herat,
is been made by Mr. R. Thomson, without looking at or referring to the former translation, in order that his mind might be unbiassed by any phrase or expression therein contained.

I do not pretend to express an opinion on the comparative merits of two translations, both made by persons better skilled than myself in the Persian language, but I have, as in duty bound, compared the one herein inclosed with the original, and it seems to me as faithful and as literal as the idiom of the respective languages will admit.

I have, &c.
(Signed) CH. A. MURRAY.

Inclosure.

Engagement of the Persian Government regarding Herat.

(Translation.) 15 *Rebbel-oo-Sanee*, 1269 (*January* 25, 1853.)

THE Persian Government engages not to send troops on any account to the territory of Herat, excepting when troops from without attack that place; that is to say, troops from the direction of

that I entirely approve of his conduct. What passed between your Excellency and me was this: you required me to engage in writing that Great Britain should not interfere in the internal government of Herat, but I declined to do so, for the reasons already stated. I added that I would not reject a document, though it should contain a declaration by your Excellency that Persia would not consider the engagement in force if Great Britain usurped a control over the internal affairs of Herat. But I did not agree to, nor did you even hint at, such terms as your Excellency inserted, that Great Britain was to be excluded from holding any relations whatever, whether secretly or openly, directly or indirectly, with Herat. None of the great Powers of the world have ventured to tell Great Britain that she should hold no relations with an independent State.

According to the desire expressed by your Excellency, Mr. Thomson will have the honour of visiting you to-morrow, at any time you choose to [illegible] but I may as well state, at once, [illegible] adhere to your arrangement. I sin[illegible] man's interview will be to close the [illegible] and which, I will frankly confess, I [illegible] Governments which have so many t[illegible]

Translated into Persi[illegible]

(Signed) Wm. Tayl[illegible]

Inclosu[illegible]

The Sadr Azim t[illegible]

(Translation.)

I HAVE received your Excell[illegible] munication. You stated therein t[illegible] an important voucher, and that durin[illegible] as to their being dependent on their[illegible] the Shah. I have never withdraw[illegible] hereafter; but I am much surprised[illegible] you should have forgotten the expre[illegible] not only once, but repeatedly, that[illegible] being ratified and accepted by the[illegible] tation to His Majesty on the subject[illegible] us. Meerza Hoossein Koolee, who[illegible] not forgotten the circumstance, and[illegible] I repeatedly made such a statement[illegible] remark, that among men of honour,[illegible] more than any voucher, your Excell[illegible] whole of the current affairs betwee[illegible] without delay every engagement con[illegible] clause of reservation which was to be[illegible] should I, Heaven forbid! retract, if, l[illegible]

With reference to your Excellen[illegible] for the non-interference of the Britis[illegible] when the subject was previously discussed, besides your having entirely approved Meerza Hoossein Koolee's conduct, who denied (that such an arrangement had been made), your Excellency has, in your letter, introduced an article containing new matter and expressions. I shall recall to your Excellency's recollection the expressions you used on that occasion: "I have no permission from the Ministers of my own Government to write (an engagement), but you, in your own letter, may write whatever you please with regard to the non-interference of the British Government in Herat. I shall not object, and you can select and write in such terms as you think right." If your Excellency were to recall correctly to your memory the expressions used, you would, in justice, admit that these matters have remained well in my mind. You wrote that none of the great Governments had ever ventured to say that the British Government was to have no intercourse with an independent Government. Although many observations may be made on such a remark by your Excellency, and although I do not wish to give additional trouble to your Excellency, still I cannot

avoid expressing my great surprise at your statement; and I shall only trouble you by remarking, how does it happen that that great Government, which up to the present time had no communication with Herat, and, according to express Treaty, had no right to interfere itself or to prevent (another Government) from interfering, has now advanced such a demand as that Persia shall withdraw from the right it possessed, and still possesses, of interference with Herat? When the Persian Government has deemed its rights of no consequence in comparison with the friendship of the British Government, it is no doubt suitable that the British Government should not cause any injury to this Government, which has become satisfied with a small portion of the question, by giving such intimations as your Excellency has so distinctly expressed in your letter, and enable the Ministers of this Government to feel assured that no disturbance will arise in Khorassan, and that Herat will remain in its present condition.

Translated by
(Signed) WM. TAYLOUR THOMSON.

Inclosure 4 in No. 38.

The Sadr Azim to Lieutenant-Colonel Sheil.

(Translation). *January* 25, 1853.

I HAVE written, sealed, and sent to your Excellency, herewith, the conditional Articles relative to Herat, which, after having been submitted to His Majesty the Shah, were concluded between your Excellency and myself, to our mutual satisfaction; as well as a copy of a letter which will be addressed and sent to Syed Mahomed Khan, Zuheer-ood-Dowleh, the Governor of Herat; and I beg your Excellency will take the trouble to acknowledge their having reached you.

Translated by
(Signed) WM. TAYLOUR THOMSON.

Inclosure 5 in No. 38.

*Engagement contracted by the Persian Government relative to Herat.**

(Translation). *January* 25, 1853.

THE Persian Government engages not to send, on any account, troops to Herat, unless when foreign troops invade Herat, that is, (troops) from the direc-

* Some doubt having been raised as to the correctness of this translation, Mr. Murray was instructed to have a fresh translation made from the original, which translation is subjoined :—

Mr. Murray to Mr. Hammond.—(*Received May* 13.)

Sir, *Bagdad, April* 2, 1857.

IN conformity with the wishes of Lord Clarendon, as conveyed to me in your note of January 9, I have the honour to inclose herewith a copy of the original Persian engagement respecting Herat, together with a fresh translation thereof. The latter has been made by Mr. R. Thomson, without looking at or referring to the former translation, in order that his mind might be unbiassed by any phrase or expression therein contained.

I do not pretend to express an opinion on the comparative merits of two translations, both made by persons better skilled than myself in the Persian language, but I have, as in duty bound, compared the one herein inclosed with the original, and it seems to me as faithful and as literal as the idiom of the respective languages will admit.

I have, &c.
(Signed) CH. A. MURRAY.

Inclosure.

Engagement of the Persian Government regarding Herat.

(Translation.) 15 *Rebbel-oo-Sanee*, 1269 (*January* 25, 1853.)

THE Persian Government engages not to send troops on any account to the territory of Herat, excepting when troops from without attack that place; that is to say, troops from the direction of

tion of Cabul, or Candahar, or other foreign country. In the event, too, of troops being sent, in that case the Persian Government engages that the said troops are not to enter the city of Herat; and whenever the foreign troops return towards their own territory, the Persian troops are immediately, and without delay, to return to the Persian soil.

The Persian Government also engages not to interfere, in any manner whatsoever, in the internal affairs of Herat, such as in taking possession, or occupying, or assuming the sovereignty, or in governing, unless in so far as interference existed between the two parties during the lifetime of the late Zuheer-ood-Dowleh, Yar Mahomed Khan; that (interference) is to remain in force as formerly. Therefore the Persian Government engages to address a letter of this purport to Syed Mahomed Khan, and to send it in concert with a person belonging to the British Mission, who may be in Meshed, who are to deliver it to the above-mentioned person.

The Persian Government also engages to abandon the pretension and demand for the coinage and the "khootbeh," or any other mark whatsoever of the people of Herat being subjects or under the government of Persia. But if, as in the times of the late Kamran and the late Yar Mahomed Khan, a sum should be sent, by their own free will, as an offering, and coin the money in the Royal name, the Persian Government does not object to it, and it will receive it; and this engagement will be immediately communicated to Syed Mahomed Khan.

It (the Persian Government) also engages to recall Abbass Koolee Khan, Pissian, after he shall have resided four months, dating from his arrival there, so that he may not be resident; and also hereafter not to have a permanent Agent in Herat; but that there is to be intercourse (going and coming) as in the time of the late Yar Mahomed Khan; and also not to retain in Persia a

Cabul, or from Candahar, or from other foreign territory; and in case of troops being dispatched under such circumstances, the Persian Government binds itself that they shall not enter the city of Herat, and that immediately on the retreat of the foreign troops to their own country, the Persian force shall forthwith return to the Persian soil, without delay.

The Persian Government also engages to abstain from all interference whatsoever in the internal affairs of Herat, likewise in (regard to) occupation, or taking possession, or assuming the sovereignty or government, except that the same amount of interference which took place between the two in the time of the late Zuheer-ud-Dowleh, Yar Mahomed Khan, is to exist as formerly. The Persian Government, therefore, engages to address a letter to Syed Mahomed Khan, acquainting him with these conditions, and to forward it to him (by a person), accompanied by some one belonging to the English Mission, who may be in Meshed.

The Persian Government also engages to relinquish all claim or pretension to the coinage of money, and to the "khootbeh," or to any other mark whatever of subjection or of allegiance on the part of the people of Herat to Persia. But if, as in the time of the late Kamran, and in that of the late Yar Mahomed Khan, they should, of their own accord, send an offering in money, and strike it in the Shah's name, Persia will receive it without making any objection. This condition will also be immediately communicated to Syed Mahomed Khan. They also engage to recall Abbass Koolee Khan, Peeseean, after four months from the date of his arrival, so that he may not reside there permanently; and hereafter no permanent agent will be placed in Herat, but intercourse will be maintained as in the time of Yar Mahomed Khan. Neither will they maintain a permanent agent on the part of Herat in Tehran. There will be the same relations and privileges which existed in Kamran's time, and in that of the late Yar Mahomed Khan. For instance, if at any time it should be necessary, for the punishment of the Toorkomans, or in case of disturbance or rebellion in the Shah's dominions, that the Persian Government should receive assistance from the Heratees, similar to that afforded by the late Yar Mahomed Khan, they may, as formerly, render assistance of their own accord and free will, but not of a permanent nature.

The Persian Government further engages, unconditionally, and without exception, to release and set free all the chiefs of Herat who are in Meshed, or in Tehran, or in any other part of Persia, and not to receive any offenders, prisoners, or suspected persons whatsoever, from Syed Mahomed Khan, with the exception of such persons as, having been banished by Syed Mahomed Khan from Herat, may come here and themselves desire to remain, or to enter the service. These will be treated with kindness and favour as formerly. Distinct orders will be issued immediately to the Prince Governor of Khorassan to carry out these engagements.

The above six engagements, on the part of the Persian Government, are to be observed, and to have effect; and the Persian Ministers, notwithstanding the rights which they possess in Herat, solely out of friendship and to satisfy the English Government, have entered into these engagements with the English Government, so long as there is no interference whatsoever on its part in the internal affairs of Herat and its dependencies; otherwise these engagements will be null and void, and as if they never had existed or been written. And if any foreign (State), either Affghan or other, should desire to interfere with or encroach upon the territory of Herat or its dependencies, and the Persian Ministers should make the request, the British Government are not to be remiss in restraining them, and in giving their friendly advice, so that Herat may remain in its own state of independence.

(Seal and autograph of the Sadr Azim.)

Translated by
(Signed) Ronald F. Thomson.

permanent Agent from Herat. Also, as in the time of Kamran and Yar Mahomed Khan, the same intercourse, and all the privileges then enjoyed, will still exist. One of these is, if, at any time, assistance from Herat should, in order to punish the Toorkomans, or to suppress disturbance or rebellion in the Persian territories, be required by Persia, aid, as was afforded by the late Yar Mahomed Khan, may, as formerly, by their own free will, be given, but not as permanent (aid).

The Persian Government also engages to set at liberty, and unbridled, without condition and without exception, all the Herat Khans who are in Meshed or in Tehran, or elsewhere, and henceforward not to receive, in any manner whatsoever, culprits or prisoners, or persons accused of crimes, from Syed Mahomed Khan. But persons whom Syed Mahomed Khan may himself expel from Herat, if those persons should of their own free will come here, and desire to remain in the country, or enter the service, they will, as formerly, receive aid, and be treated with kindness. Distinct orders will be immediately issued to the Prince Governor of Khorassan to put in force these engagements.

The above six engagements, with these conditions, which have been contracted by Persia, notwithstanding the rights which Persia possesses in Herat, solely out of friendship to the British Government, to give it satisfaction and promote cordiality, are in force and acted upon so long as no interference of any sort whatever shall occur on the part of the British Government; but if otherwise, these engagements will be (as if) unwritten, non-existent, and invalid.

If any foreign Power, such as the Affghans or others, should wish to interfere and take possession of the Herat territory or its dependencies, and the Persian Ministers should request the British Ministers to prevent them by friendly means and by advice from doing so, they will not object to do so, so that Herat may remain in its own state of independence.

Translated by
(Signed) Wm. Taylour Thomson.

Inclosure 6 in No. 38.

Lieutenant-Colonel Sheil to the Sadr Azim.

January 30, 1853.

I HAVE had the honour to receive your Excellency's letter of the 25th of January, inclosing an engagement sealed by your Excellency relative to the future relations of this Government with Herat; also an authenticated copy of a letter to be addressed by you to Syed Mahomed Khan, and an authenticated copy of a "melfoofeh" (private firman) from the Shah to that Chief, in confirmation of your communication.

But I hope the Persian Ministers will remember that what makes an engagement valuable or permanent, or can secure the return and continuance of those intimate relations of which both the Governments of Great Britain and Persia have enjoyed the benefit, is the spirit with which it is fulfilled. Although the Government of His Majesty the Shah has assumed to itself a right to send troops to the territory of Herat under certain contingencies, they have no doubt not failed to observe in the despatch addressed by the Earl of Malmesbury to me, the dislike of Her Majesty's Government to such movements, and I therefore make no doubt the Persian Ministers will exercise a wise discretion in its practice.

In conformity with the above engagement, I request the Persian Ministers will issue instructions for the immediate and unrestricted freedom of the Herat Khans now in Tehran, particularly of the four Khans who lately arrived here under restraint; also for the liberation of the Khans in confinement at Meshed, or who may be on the road from that city. I assume it to be impossible that any more such deplorable events will happen, or can happen, as general notoriety ascribes to the unfortunate Fettee Mahomed Khan, near Beerjend, or to the Arz Begee at Nishapoor.

Inclosure 7 in No. 38.

The Sadr Azim to Syed Mahomed Khan, Ruler of Herat.

(Translation.) *January* 26, 1853.

THE Persian Ministers, from the time when they began to give aid and assistance to you, my son, had no intention of taking possession or assuming sovereignty over Herat; nay, they were desirous that it should remain in a state of independence, and be preserved from the attacks and invasions of foreigners. They had no views of acquisition on the Herat soil, or of raising contributions from Herat or the people of Herat, and these circumstances were made known to the Mufti (lately Political Agent from the Governor of Herat to the Shah) when he was here. Now when their intentions have, thank God, been accomplished, it is necessary that I should inform you, my son, of the articles and engagements which the (Persian) Ministers have imposed upon themselves. They are to the following effect:—That the Persian Ministers never had, nor will ever have, any idea of taking possession, assuming the sovereignty, or governing either Herat, or the Herat territory, or its people, and will not interfere in any manner whatsoever in the internal affairs of Herat, so that they may be independent in their country and their own affairs, without the interference of any one belonging either to this Government or to the Affghans of Cabul and Candahar, or other foreigners. They will not in any manner agree that the khootbeh (prayer in the Shah's name) should be recited in the name of His Majesty (the Shah). With regard to the coinage also, solely to secure your independence, my son, they will never consent that the current coin should be struck in the name of His Majesty (the Shah). But if, as in the times of the late Kamran and the late Yar Mahomed Khan, you should desire to send a sum of money as an offering, and that money should be struck in His Majesty's name, the Persian Ministers will not object to it, and it will be received. If at any time it should be necessary that the people of Herat should give assistance to Persia in order to punish the Toorkomans, or when there is a disturbance or rebellion in the Persian territory, they may of their own free will, as was formerly done in the time of the late Yar Mahomed Khan, send assistance in men, but not as a permanent force. Yes, that which His Majesty the Shah considers imperative on him, on account of the services rendered by the late Zuheer-ood-Dowleh is, that if any foreign troops, Affghan or other, should invade Herat, the Ministers of this ever-enduring State shall dispatch troops to the aid of the Heratees, to join the Herat troops outside of the town of Herat, and when the foreign troops have been expelled from the Herat soil, to return immediately to the Persian territory. No doubt, after you have become acquainted with the real sentiments of the (Persian) Ministers, you will act in conformity with them.

Translated by

(Signed) Wm. Taylour Thomson.

Inclosure 8 in No. 38.

Firman of the Shah to Syed Mohomed Khan, Ruler of Herat.

(Translation.) *January* 29, 1853.

LET the high in rank, &c., Zuheer-ood-Dowleh, Syed Mahomed Khan, feel assured of our Royal favour, and know that the engagement given by the Ministers of this Government, with regard to Herat, and to acquire independence for him, is as his Excellency the Sadr Azim has written to him. No doubt he, Syed Mahomed Khan, will be made acquainted with it, and will act in conformity with it. Let him know that he enjoys the highest favour of our Royal person, and represent his prayers to us.

Translated by

(Signed) Wm. Taylour Thomson.

No. 39.

Lieutenant-Colonel Sheil to the Earl of Malmesbury.—(Received March 19.)

My Lord, *Tehran, February 4, 1853.*

I HAVE the honour to inclose for your Lordship's information a translation of a letter I have addressed to the Ruler of Herat, in transmitting to him a copy of the arrangement made by the Persian Cabinet, relative to its future connection with his Government. I have forwarded this letter by Sultan Khan, a native of Candahar, whose brother is a pensioner of the Government of India. This person is, therefore, well acquainted with all that concerns Affghanistan; and he will accompany the Persian messenger from Meshed.

I have, &c.,

(Signed) JUSTIN SHEIL.

Inclosure in No. 39.

Lieutenant-Colonel Sheil to Syed Mahomed Khan, Ruler of Herat.

YOUR Excellency has no doubt heard of the anxiety testified many years ago by the Government of Her Majesty the Queen of Great Britain, for the maintenance of the independence of Herat. Although circumstances have withdrawn Her Majesty's Government of late from any direct connection with Affghanistan, they have not ceased to take a warm interest in the welfare and prosperity of Herat, and in the preservation of its independence under Affghan rule. They have watched with solicitude during the last year and a-half, since your Excellency's accession to the Government of that country, the progress of events in Herat, and the issue has been that they have felt themselves called on to require an explanation from the Persian Ministers, for their share in certain proceedings connected with your Excellency's territory, and to claim from them assurances for the maintenance of that territory independent of Persian rule. The discussions which followed terminated in certain engagements, concluded by this Government, and which I deem it my duty to bring to the knowledge of your Excellency. They are contained in the three inclosed papers, which are copies of the originals, consisting of a document sealed by the Prime Minister of Persia; a letter from the Prime Minister to your Excellency; and a firman from the Shah to your address, ratifying the engagements of the Sadr Azim.

These documents sufficiently explain the views of Great Britain, which, briefly stated, are a determination that Herat shall remain in Affghan hands and in independence.

I sincerely trust that the time has arrived when you will cease to require aid from the Government of this country; and that henceforward your Excellency will be able alone to maintain the integrity of your country. Your Excellency may be assured that the ruler who seeks foreign aid, loses the respect and the loyalty of his subjects, and that there is only one termination to repeated applications for foreign succour. The goodwill of your subjects is your surest safeguard. By upright, just, and impartial government, by cultivating Affghan national feeling, there can be no doubt of your ability to maintain your position against all intruders, in the same manner that your Excellency's father, the late Yar Mahomed Khan, accomplished with such brilliant success.

My messenger, who will deliver this communication, will await your Excellency's convenience to return with an answer in acknowledgment of its receipt.

Translated into Persian by

(Signed) Wm. Taylour Thomson.

No. 40.

The Earl of Clarendon to Lieutenant-Colonel Sheil.

Sir, *Foreign Office, March* 21, 1853.

I HAVE to acquaint you that Her Majesty's Government approve of the arrangement which you have made with the Persian Government respecting Herat, as reported in your despatch of the 30th of January.

They also approve of the letter which you addressed to the Ruler of Herat, on the subject of that arrangement, of which a copy is inclosed in your despatch of the 4th of February.

I am, &c.
(Signed) CLARENDON.

No. 41.

Lieutenant-Colonel Sheil to Lord John Russell.—(Received April 15.)

My Lord, *Tehran, February* 17, 1853.

I HAVE the honour to inclose a translation of correspondence which has passed between the Persian Ministers and me, relative to Sultan Khan, the person whom I dispatched to Herat. On the pretence that a native of Candahar was an objectionable selection, they threatened not to adhere to their engagement to communicate to Syed Mahomed Khan (the Ruler of Herat), the nature of the arrangement concluded relative to Herat; but the Sadr Azim at length withdrew this menace, and has announced the determination of this Government to fulfil its agreement.

I have, &c.
(Signed) JUSTIN SHEIL.

Inclosure 1 in No. 41.

Meerza Saeed Khan to Lieutenant-Colonel Sheil.

(Translation.)

YOUR Excellency is well aware of the exertions of the Ministers of this Government to do that which may be agreeable to you in every question and affair; and one of which is the question of Herat, which has been under discussion for a considerable length of time. No doubt it has become clear and evident to you how much the Ministers of this Government exerted themselves to conclude that negotiation in conformity with the friendship between the two States and your Excellency's wishes; thanks be to God, the matter has been so arranged. Such being the case, it is evident that your Excellency too will endeavour to do that which will be agreeable to the Ministers of this Government. How then has it happened that you have not acted conformably to the article of the engagement, in sending a person along with the messenger of this Government to Herat, with the letters addressed to Syed Mahomed Khan, Zuheer-ood-Dowleh; and instead of appointing the Mission Agent in Khorassan to proceed in company with a person from the Prince Governor of Khorassan, you have dispatched Sultan Khan from this. No objection would have been made, if no person belonging to the Mission had been in Meshed, to your sending one of your couriers; but the dispatching of Sultan Khan was in every respect contrary to the articles of the engagement, which ought to be observed with the greatest nicety. As the Persian Ministers do not believe that Sultan Khan will content himself with only being a witness to the delivery of the letters, but he will engage in other matters unconnected with the affair in question, I therefore make a friendly request of your Excellency that his departure may immediately be cancelled; and that, in conformity with the arrangement, another person be appointed to proceed in his stead, so that the Ministers of this Government may not be forced to issue immediate and distinct orders to the Prince Governor of Khorassan not to send the letters until he receives fresh instructions from this.

I hope from the high friendship of your Excellency that you will arrange this affair in conformity with my friendly request, and give me a speedy intimation of what you have determined.

Translated by
(Signed) Wm. Taylour Thomson.

Inclosure 2 in No. 41.

Lieutenant-Colonel Sheil to Meerza Saeed Khan.

I HAVE received your Excellency's private letter without date. As it contains a threat, it is out of my power to make a reply, and I request your Excellency to take the trouble of addressing me officially.

Inclosure 3 in No. 41.

Meerza Saeed Khan to Lieutenant-Colonel Sheil.

(Translation.)

I COMPREHEND the contents of the short private note addressed to me by your Excellency. You asked me to write to you officially, to enable you to give me an answer. I did not intend to give your Excellency the trouble of entering into a formal correspondence. I merely made a friendly (or private) request that Sultan Khan should be changed for another person. If this request is now agreeable to your Excellency, I beg you to be so good as to inform me of the circumstance, without taking the trouble of entering into correspondence: otherwise why should I place you to inconvenience? it will be apparent that you do not consider it expedient to agree to that request. (The Persian Minister means probably that if an answer is not sent, it will be considered as a refusal.)

Inclosure 4 in No. 41.

Lieutenant-Colonel Sheil to Meerza Saeed Khan.

February 9, 1853.

AS your Excellency's second private note of to-day is written in a tone wholly different fron the communication of this morning, I beg to answer that I ascribe to myself the most entire freedom in communicating with Herat; that I will send there whom I please, when I please, and as often as I please, without reference to the Persian Ministers, or communication or consultation with them, exactly as I would do to any other independent Government.

It is absolutely contrary to the fact to assert that it was agreed that an Agent of this Mission at Meshed should be sent to Herat. There was no specification of persons. The Agent of this Mission has his own duties in Meshed, which would render it impossible for him to leave that city, independent of other recent circumstances connected with him, of which your Excellency is aware. The Prime Minister seems to forget that he sent me a message by Meerza Hoossein Koolee, requesting me to dispatch the person who was to proceed from Meshed. Your Excellency was, I think, present.

Inclosure 5 in No. 41.

Meerza Saeed Khan to Lieutenant-Colonel Sheil.

(Translation.) *February* 12, 1853.

I CONSIDER it necessary to trouble your Excellency with this short reply to your private note. It is better that I should refer to his Excellency the Prime Minister of this Government what you have stated in regard to your being free to have intercourse and relations with Herat, as all the discussions and arrangements connected with this affair have been between him and your Excellency.

But with reference to your statement that apparently his Excellency the Prime Minister had forgotten the message he had sent you through Meerza Hoossein Koolee, that you should appoint some one to accompany the person to be dispatched by this Government: I was present on the occasion, but the message was not to the effect that your Excellency's man should proceed at once from this place to Herat; nay, his intention was to inquire whether your Excellency would transmit your letters through the courier of this Government, or appoint a person expressly to convey your Excellency's letters to Meshed, from whence the Mission Agent residing in Meshed would convey them to Herat, in the company of the person dispatched by the Prince Governor of Khorassan. If the message of his Excellency was conveyed to your Excellency in other terms, the bearer had forgotten what was said. It is much to be regretted that what is said should either be exaggerated or diminished. It is for this reason that I have informed your Excellency of the true state of the case.

Translated by
(Signed) Wm. Taylour Thomson.

Inclosure 6 in No. 41.

Lieutenant-Colonel Sheil to the Sadr Azim.

February 10, 1853.

HIS Excellency the Minister for Foreign Affairs thought fit to state to me yesterday, in a private note, that, under certain circumstances, the Persian Ministers would issue orders to the Prince Governor in Meshed not to transmit to Herat the arrangement they made relative to that Principality. As it seemed doubtful whether this note was written in his own person merely, or on the part of the Persian Ministers, it is my duty to inquire the purport of his communication; and also to state that should this intimation have been conveyed on the part of the Persian Ministers, it would be a flagrant breach of an engagement, of which the consequences would be serious.

It is incumbent on me, under the circumstances of receiving a communication so extraordinary and unparalleled as that of the Minister for Foreign Affairs, to notify that Her Majesty's Government will hold the Persian Government responsible for any molestation my messenger to Herat may receive within the Persian dominions.

Inclosure 7 in No. 41.

The Sadr Azim to Lieutenant-Colonel Sheil.

(Translation.) *February* 12, 1853.

I HAVE received your Excellency's letter of the 10th instant. You inquired in what capacity (official or private) his Excellency the Minister of Foreign Affairs had addressed his note to you. It is clear that it was not written without the knowledge of the Government. But with reference to the point to which you allude in your letter, as being in contravention of the engagement concluded by this Government, I bring to your Excellency's recollection the expressions used in the written engagement, where it is distinctly stated, "the Persian Government engages that a letter to this effect shall be addressed to Syed Mahomed Khan, and be delivered to him conjointly with a person belonging to the British Mission who may be in Meshed." I am surprised how your Excellency could have disregarded a phrase so distinctly expressed; and, at the same time, I recall to your Excellency's recollection, that previous to an arrangement having been concluded between your Excellency and myself, relative to the Herat question, you every day assumed as a voucher expressions which in the course of discussion had been employed, and complained that in such and such a point the Articles of the Engagement had been contravened, although it is clear that until a discussion is closed any term which may be employed has no connection with the engagement. Now I would ask your Excellency to say, in justice, if after the discussion has been closed, and the engagement is

concluded, so shameful a change in the meaning of the above Article should appear, which of the two parties is thereby proved to be the contravener?

With regard to your statement that if Sultan Khan should be forced to return (without completing his journey) the British Government will attribute it to the Persian Government, and accept of no excuse, I have to state to your Excellency that no disrespect will be shown to that person, and he will go without impediment and with all respect, in the manner you have chosen to send him; but the objection made is to the sending of the letters which were to have been sent by a person such as is clearly described in the Article of the written Engagement, and not by the above-mentioned person, whose dispatch is contrary to the clear stipulations of the Engagement.

Translated by
(Signed) Wm. Taylour Thomson.

Inclosure 8 in No. 41.

Lieutenant-Colonel Sheil to the Sadr Azim.

February 13, 1853.

I HAVE received your Excellency's letter of the 12th February. I will enter into no discussion with this Government as to the selection of the person whom I shall send to Herat; for, as I said to the Minister for Foreign Affairs, I exercise an absolute discretion on the subject. The person I shall employ is Sultan Khan, whom I have already dispatched to Meshed. As for sending the English Agent at Meshed, as your Excellency suggests, it is wholly out of the question; he has his own avocations. Moreover, I cannot admit the interference of the Persian Ministers in the matter; and besides this, the scandalous treatment of this person by the Prince Governor of Khorassan, for which I have still to obtain ample satisfaction from this Government, incapacitates him for such a duty.

As the Persian Government has taken on itself the responsibility of the threat conveyed by the Minister for Foreign Affairs, that the arrangement and other documents will not be transmitted to Herat, I claim from the Persian Ministers a distinct announcement whether it is their purpose to adhere to their engagement, and dispatch these documents to Herat in company with my messenger, or whether I am to report to my Government that the Persian Ministers refuse to do so.

Inclosure 9 in No. 41.

The Sadr Azim to Lieutenant-Colonel Sheil.

(Translation.) *February* 13, 1853.

I HAVE received your Excellency's letter of the 13th instant, on the subject of Sultan Khan's accompanying the messenger of His Royal Highness the Governor of Khorassan to Herat for the purpose of delivering the letters addressed to Syed Mahomed Khan. Although Sultan Khan, accompanied by the Prince's messenger, ought by this time to have been dispatched, still, in order that your Excellency may be assured, a letter will be addressed to His Highness, so that if, let it be supposed, their departure has been delayed, he shall dispatch his messenger in company with Sultan Khan, who will deliver his letters, and return. This is merely a repetition of instructions, as no orders had been sent to the Prince to dispatch his messenger without being accompanied by Sultan Khan. No doubt they will be speedily dispatched, and, having delivered their letters, will return in a short time.

Translated by
(Signed) Wm. Taylour Thomson.

No. 42.

The Earl of Clarendon to Lieutenant-Colonel Sheil.

Sir, *Foreign Office, April* 18, 1853.

I HAVE received your despatch of the 17th of February, inclosing copies of further correspondence with the Persian Government respecting Herat.

The tenour of this correspondence serves to confirm Her Majesty's Government in their determination to abstain from renewing political intercourse with Sheffee Khan until they shall have obtained clear and indisputable proof that the Persian Government will faithfully fulfil its engagements in regard to Herat, as recorded in the Agreement of which a copy is inclosed in your despatch of the 30th of January, and of which I signified the approval of Her Majesty's Government in my despatch of the 21st of March.

I am, &c.
(Signed) CLARENDON.

No. 43.

The Earl of Clarendon to Mr. Thomson.

Sir, *Foreign Office, May* 7, 1853.

SHEFFEE KHAN having asked for an interview, I received him here this morning.

He stated that he had learnt from his Government that the wishes of Her Majesty's Government, with respect to Herat, had been entirely fulfilled, and that he was therefore desirous to know in what position he was henceforward to stand at this Court.

I told Sheffee Khan that diplomatic relations with him had been suspended, because the Persian Government, and he as its Agent, had grossly deceived us, and that we thought it useless, as well as improper, to keep up communication where we could feel no confidence; but that upon the intelligence of the arrangement respecting Herat, to which he alluded, reaching me, I should have renewed official intercourse with him, if I had not almost at the same time heard that the Persian Minister was attempting to evade the Agreement entered into by the Shah; but that as, on the representation of Colonel Sheil, this fresh attempt to deceive us had been entirely abandoned, I was prepared to remove the restriction.

Sheffee Khan expressed his satisfaction, and with some earnestness assured me that the agreement respecting Herat would be lasting, and that the most friendly understanding with this country was the wish and the interest of his Government.

I said that a similar wish animated Her Majesty's Government, but that its realization altogether depended upon the fidelity with which Persia fulfilled her engagements, as Sheffee Khan well knew that those of Great Britain were never departed from.

I am, &c.
(Signed) CLARENDON.

No. 44.

Mr. Thomson to the Earl of Clarendon—Received July 31.

(Extract.) *Camp near Tehran, June* 15, 1854.

I HAVE appointed, pending your Lordship's approval, Meerza Hashem Khan to be First Persian Secretary to this Mission. He is about thirty years of age, and belongs to one of the chief branches of the tribe of Nooree, but not that of which the Sadr Azim is the representative. His father, the late Meerza Mahomed Raheem Khan, was, during the last reign, on different occasions

Governor of the districts of Mishkeen, of Sirab, and of Meeaneh; and having commenced his service in the household of the present Shah, while heir-apparent, he has a most extensive circle of acquaintance among the people of the Court. The late Ameer Nizam was his patron, and, a few days before he was seized and exiled to Cashan, intended to have given him a post in the Civil service, but since that Minister's fall he has received no countenance from his successor. His character, in as far as I have been able to ascertain, is most respectable, and he is connected by marriage with the Royal family.

No. 45.

The Earl of Clarendon to Mr. Thomson.

Sir, *Foreign Office, August 7, 1854.*

IN reply to your despatch of the 15th of June, I have to acquaint you that I approve of your having appointed Meerza Hashem Khan to be First Persian Secretary to Her Majesty's Mission at Tehran; but you will impress upon him that the continuance of his employment in the above-named capacity will depend on his fidelity, and on his zeal for Her Majesty's service.

I am, &c.

(Signed) CLARENDON.

No. 46.

Mr. Thomson to the Earl of Clarendon.—(Received November 6.)

(Extract.) *Camp near Tehran, September 2, 1854.*

IN my despatch of the 15th of June, I had the honour to report that, pending your Lordship's approval, I had appointed Meerza Hashem Khan to be First Persian Secretary to this Mission. But the Persian Government has declined to receive that gentleman in that capacity on the plea that he, having been in the service of the Shah, and not having received from His Majesty a formal discharge, was not competent to enter any other service. This refusal of the Persian Government was conveyed to me by the Sadr Azim in such a manner that I had some doubts if the objection which had been taken would be pressed, and I therefore delayed some time reporting this circumstance in order that I might see clearly the course they intended to take. In the meantime, although I am aware that the appointment was not very agreeable to the Persian Ministers on account of the rank which Meerza Hashem Khan holds as a member of one of the chief families in Persia, the persons about the Court who are opposed to the Sadr Azim took this opportunity of instigating the Shah to instruct the Sadr Azim to oppose the appointment on the ground I have first mentioned, and also on account of his connection by marriage with the Royal family, with the hope that it would lead to an estrangement between the Prime Minister and this Mission. This advice having been taken by the Shah, the Sadr Azim begged of me so strongly not to insist on the appointment at such a moment, that I at length considered it more judicious to appoint another person to act until your Lordship's sentiments might be made known to me, as I felt persuaded that by the adoption of the other course angry discussions would be the result, and the Mission would be deprived of the services of the First Persian Secretary at a moment when, by the return of Colonel Sheil, they were indispensably necessary.

Your Lordship is aware of the great difficulty of obtaining an efficient person to fill that post, and, in this dilemma, I have been obliged to employ Meerza Fezloollah in that capacity.

I trust your Lordship will, under the peculiar circumstances I have stated, not disapprove of the course I have taken.

With regard to Meerza Hashem Khan, the Prime Minister has volunteered to me to take care of his interests, but as that gentleman has been so thoroughly dissatisfied with the treatment he has received from the

Persian Government, he declines taking any service under the Shah; and as he appears to me to be a person who would make himself useful, I would venture to suggest, that on his obtaining a formal discharge from the Shah's Government, he might be appointed to the post of Agent in Shiraz; the Acting Agent there having, during the time he has been acting, not shown himself properly qualified for the duties of that post.

No. 47.

The Earl of Clarendon to Mr. Thomson.

(Extract.) *Foreign Office, November* 16, 1854.

I HAVE received your despatch of the 2nd of September, explaining the circumstances under which the Persian Government have declined to receive Meerza Hashem Khan as First Persian Secretary to Her Majesty's Mission, and reporting that you had appointed Meerza Fezloollah to discharge the duties of that office.

It does not seem to me expedient to object to the course taken by the Persian Government in this matter; and I am willing to sanction the appointment of Meerza Fezloollah.

With regard to your suggestion, as to the appointment of Meerza Hashem Khan to the post of Agent at Shiraz, I have to state to you that if he succeeds in obtaining a formal discharge from his Government, I see no objection to his appointment in that capacity, with the concurrence of the Persian Government. The asking for that concurrence might be made a compliment to them.

No. 48.

Mr. Murray to the Earl of Clarendon.—(Received July 30.)

(Extract.) *Camp near Tehran, June* 22, 1855.

WITH reference to the correspondence noted in the margin,* I have the honour to request your Lordship's attention to the case of Meerza Hashem Khan, who was, in the first instance, appointed First Persian Secretary to this Mission, and subsequently recommended for the office of British Agent at Shiraz; for both of which situations, Mr. W. T. Thomson has pronounced him highly qualified—an opinion in which I entirely concur.

The most reasonable argument against Meerza Hashem Khan being retained as First Secretary, was the fact of his family having for a long time been at enmity with that of the Sadr Azim, and that the Government did not wish him to be the medium of communication between his Highness and this Mission; but with regard to the second nomination, I am of opinion that the objection does not apply with equal force, first, because there seems to exist a personal dislike between the Prime Minister and Meerza Hashem Khan, and, secondly, because in this situation he is not in any way brought into contact with the Persian Government. Deeply compromised as he certainly is, by his adherence to the British Mission, he has no wish to return to the Persian service. Another point I would bring to your Lordship's notice, is the principle of conceding to the Persian Government the right of questioning the appointments the nature of the duties of which are thoroughly British, and for the proper conduct of which the Agents are responsible to us alone.

At a recent interview with the Sadr Azim, he harped upon the necessity of a discharge from the Shah's Government, before a man could take service with another Power. In the course of conversation, the Sadr Azim admitted that

* Nos. 45, 46, and 47.

the Meerza had demanded an increase of pay, which was refused. The Meerza then requested his discharge, as his salary was insufficient; the Sadr Azim said he might go where he pleased, but his pay would not be augmented. The Sadr Azim now denies the validity of such a dismissal, and urges that the King's seal is necessary: by inquiries which I have made, I find that such formal discharge has not been the usual practice.

I trust, therefore, that your Lordship will sanction the appointment, as I cannot find any other person so well qualified; independently of which, I am confident of his fidelity, as he is sensible of the misery which must inevitably await him should he, by any misconduct, be dismissed the service, and forfeit the protection of the Mission.

I beg, in conclusion, to add that if, before receiving your Lordship's reply, I obtain the consent of the Persian Government, or, owing to any other circumstances, have reason to believe that the appointment of Meerza Hashem Khan is advisable and expedient, I shall not hesitate to anticipate your Lordship's sanction, and appoint him accordingly.

No. 49.

The Earl of Clarendon to Mr. Murray.

Sir, *Foreign Office, August* 1, 1855.

IN reply to your despatch of the 22nd of June, I have to state to you that under the circumstances which you report, I approve of your appointing Meerza Hashem Khan to be British Agent at Shiraz.

I am, &c.
(Signed) CLARENDON.

No. 50.

Mr. Murray to the Earl of Clarendon.—(Received December 21.)

My Lord, *Tehran, November* 9, 1855.

I HAVE the honour to inform your Lordship that I find myself again drawn into a most disagreable correspondence with the Persian Government, by the perverse obstinacy of the Sadr Azim. The matter in discussion is unimportant; but the consequences, if his Highness perseveres in his threatened course, may be very serious. Agreeably to the instructions contained in your Lordship's despatch of 1st August, I appointed Meerza Hashem, who has been for upwards of a year resident in the Mission, to the British Agency at Shiraz. All the circumstances connected with the case of Meerza Hasham were stated to your Lordship in detail in my despatch of June 22; it is not, therefore, necessary to trouble your Lordship with a repetition of them. The Sadr Azim now, adducing the name and authority of the Shah, persists in maintaining that the Meerza cannot, and shall not, hold any appointment under Her Britannic Majesty's Government, and has intimated, in terms too plain to be misunderstood, that if the Meerza leaves Tehran for Shiraz, the Persian Government will cause him to be seized or detained. To this I have replied that as the Meerza has his British passport and Agency commission under your Lordship's instructions, if the Persian Government attempt to detain or molest him in the discharge of his duties, they must expect the same consequence as would ensue from a similar injury offered to any other servant or employé of the Mission, and that the responsibility of those consequences will rest upon them. So far as I can judge from language, the Sadr is determined not to concede the point, and prefers risking the interruption of friendly relations with this Mission to the permitting a man whom he dislikes, and whose family has a feud with his

own, to eat his bread in peace at a remote post under the protection of the British Government.

In this, as in most other instances, his Highness has used the Shah's name just as it suits his convenience: when it answers his purpose to act on his own responsibility, and at his own pleasure, he makes no scruple of saying that His Majesty has nothing to do with such matters, and that he himself is the organ of the Persian Government; when, on the contrary, it suits his purpose to cloak his own personal views under the pretence of zeal for the Shah's honour, then he excites and irritates His Majesty and draws him personally into the discussion that may be going on; the latter course he has followed on this occasion with a view to drawing me into a personal dispute with the Shah; but I have protested against this irregular course, and have desired his Highness to carry on the discussion as usual in the name of the Persian Government, without dragging His Majesty into it.

Copies of this correspondence, with a report of its result, will be transmitted to your Lordship by a future post.

I have, &c.
(Signed) CH. A. MURRAY.

No. 51.

Mr. Murray to the Earl of Clarendon.—(*Received January* 1, 1856.)

(Extract.) *Tehran, November* 17, 1855.

I HAVE the honour to inclose, for your Lordship's information, copies and translations of the correspondence that has taken place between the Sadr Azim and myself respecting Meerza Hashem Khan, appointed to the British Agency at Shiraz, under the instructions contained in your Lordship's despatch dated August 1.

It is with much regret that I find myself obliged to take up your Lordship's time with these prolix and tedious documents upon a matter of most trifling importance in itself, but rendered serious in its consequences by the perverse obstinacy of the Sadr Azim.

Your Lordship will see it stated in the Sadr Azim's despatch (Inclosure No. 6), that he never knew of our having an Agent at Ispahan, Shiraz, &c., and that the Persian Government never had consented, and never would consent, to such a thing; whereas it is a notorious fact that not a week passes that our local agents are not in communication with the Governors of those towns, respecting the claims of Hindoos and other British subjects. Only a short time ago, in a case reported to the Foreign Office, the Sadr Azim, at my request, ordered a Commission of Arbitration to sit at Ispahan, in presence of our Agent, on the claims of a British subject against the Custom-house, which was accordingly done, and the result reported to me by our Agent; yet now, because the Sadr's order for arbitration was addressed direct to the Persian Governor, and not sent in writing to me, he denies the fact, and says in an official letter that he never knew that we had an Agent at Ispahan. And with respect to our Agency at Shiraz, two years have scarcely elapsed since a chief servant of the Sadr's, who had insulted our Agent there, was, on the official demand of Mr. Thomson, sent back all the way from this place, and publicly punished in Shiraz in presence of our Agent.

I proceed to call your attention briefly to the more salient points of this dispute with the Persian Government; the first and chief of which is, whether the British Government was justified in considering Meerza Hashem Khan as being out of the actual service of the Persian Government, and as being, therefore, eligible, like any other Persian subject, for employment under this Mission. In support of this point, your Lordship will observe that I have proved that the Meerza had been employed upwards of a year in the Mission without any pay from the Persian Government; that on my arrival, and since my arrival, the Sadr Azim had never privately or officially complained to me of Mr. Thomson's having retained the Meerza in the Mission, nor had he ever requested me to induce the Meerza to return to any real or supposed service under the Persian Government; that the words which

he acknowledged to me in the presence of my Attaché, that he had formerly addressed to Meerza Hashem Khan, were, in the opinion of that individual, in the opinion of Her Majesty's Government, and of this Mission, equivalent to a dismissal from the Shah's service, and a permission to gain his livelihood elsewhere. On these grounds, I had, agreeably to your Lordship's instructions, appointed him to the Agency at Shiraz. The replies of the Sadr to these arguments your Lordship will see in his Highness' own despatches, in which he plainly tells me that if I send the Meerza on his duty to Shiraz he will be seized and imprisoned by order of the Persian Government; a step which the Sadr well knew, without my telling him so, must lead to the hauling down the flag of this Mission.

The next step in the transaction is the seizing and imprisoning the wife of the Meerza; a measure which was not only a violation of the rights enjoyed under Treaty by employés of the Mission, but also a violation of the civil and religious law of Persia. As soon as I heard of this outrage, I desired the Meerza to lose no time in obtaining from two or three of the principal Moshtehids,* a fetwah or decree, as to the law on his case respecting the detention of his wife, or the attempt at forcible divorce, without his consent. These he obtained, and it was fortunate that he did so, as, although they could not materially affect the diplomatic question at issue, they proved, beyond dispute, that the Persian Government had been guilty of an act of illegal violence; and to show the animus by which they were influenced, I may add that, if he had not applied, and got these fetwahs immediately, he would not have got them at all, for two or three other Moshtehids, to whom application was subsequently made, acknowledged that they could not give any fetwah on the subject, as they had received a prohibitory message from the Sadr.

Here in this one incident we have an instance of a Prime Minister who insults a foreign friendly Mission, oppresses a Persian subject, and then tries to close the only avenue which the laws of the country afford for justice or redress.

My Lord, I felt that I should disgrace the position which I hold, and the country which I serve, if I had submitted to this gross affront offered to our flag; so I have insisted on the wife of the Meerza being liberated and restored to her husband. I have given the Persian Government until Monday next, the 19th instant, to inform me of their decision, under the alternative conveyed in my despatch to the Sadr, Inclosure No. 11.

Inclosure 1 in No. 51.

Mr. Murray to the Sadr Azim.

November 4, 1855.

MEERZA HASHEM KHAN having been nominated to Shiraz by Her Majesty's Government to reside in that city as Agent for this Mission, I have the honour to state, for your Highness' information, that he has been furnished with his commission and passport, and will start for his post in the course of a few days.

Translated into Persian by
(Signed) RONALD F. THOMSON.

Inclosure 2 in No. 51.

The Sadr Azim to Mr. Murray.

(Translation.) *November* 4, 1855.

I HAVE received your Excellency's letter of this day's date; but as the matter it contained was serious, and connected with the internal administration of this country, and at variance with the institutions and

* High-priests.

customs which have long been in force in Persia, and strange moreover, I did not think it right, of my own accord, to reply to it; I therefore lost no time in submitting it to His Majesty the Shah, who was pleased to address to me an autograph note, the substance of which, word for word, without any alteration whatever, I now insert in this letter by His Majesty's commands:—

Meerza Hashem Khan is a servant in the pay of this Government, and his name is enrolled in the list of Government servants; and he cannot enter the service of any other person, according to the established law of this country, unless he receive his dismissal first. It is certain that if he has had the presumption, of his own accord, to do such a thing, the internal affairs of this country will be thrown into confusion, and it will be a bad example for others.

Of course his Excellency the Minister Plenipotentiary is not aware of this; otherwise, in justice and right, he would never, in the face of the friendly relations existing between the two Governments, commit an act which is irregular and incompatible with the Persian institutions. If, after being informed of these circumstances, he should persist in this course, without a regard to the preservation of the dignity of this country, certainly, whatever steps are necessary for upholding its dignity and reputation, will be adopted; and any consequences arising from this will rest with that person who takes the initiative in an affair of this description.

As a reply to your letter was necessary, I have confined myself to merely copying the Shah's autograph word for word.

Translated by
(Signed) Ronald F. Thomson.

Inclosure 3 in No. 51.

Mr. Murray to the Sadr Azim.

November 6, 1855.

I HAVE received your Highness' despatch of the day before yesterday's date: and I observe with regret and surprise that your Highness has made an objectionable innovation, in causing the Shah to take a part in the official correspondence passing between your Highness and myself. Up to this date, in this country as in all others, a due respect for Royalty has established a rule, that diplomatic correspondence takes place between the Minister of one Power and the Vizier of another; and it is not the custom for Sovereigns to take any part in such discussions. Your Highness, on this occasion, by drawing aside the curtain of awe, which has hitherto veiled the person of the Shah, and by causing His Majesty to come forth on the arena of discussion, seems to me to have committed an act which tends to lower the dignity of the Shah; and it is a course which, out of respect to His Majesty, and out of regard for the established customs of diplomacy, I cannot consent to follow.

With reference to the case of Meerza Hashem Khan, lately appointed British Vakeel* at Shiraz, I am quite ready to answer any arguments which your Highness can advance against the appointment, when you bring them forward in the customary form on the part of the Persian Government.

Translated into Persian by
(Signed) Ronald F. Thomson.

Inclosure 4 in No. 51.

The Sadr Azim to Mr. Murray.

(Translation.) *November* 6, 1855.

I HAVE received your Excellency's letter of this date. You expressed surprise that I had communicated to His Majesty the Shah, my Royal Master,

* Agent.

the contents of your letter. I believe I have frequently informed you, both in writing and verbally, that in all matters of business, especially in affairs connected with the Foreign Department, I am charged to submit the entire questions to the Shah; and the practice existing in this country no way resembles the usages prevalent in Europe. Neither is that attention which His Majesty pays to the administration of his country derogatory to his Royal dignity; nor is the obedience and submission which I practise unsuitable to the position and office which I hold. What indeed causes surprise is, that your Excellency should, in your official letter, write that, by the orders of Her Majesty's Government, Meerza Hashem Khan, who is in the pay of this Government, has been appointed Agent to the Mission at Shiraz, and that you should expect me to consent to such a strange and serious matter without the knowledge of His Majesty the Shah, and to admit the right of the Mission to have an Agent in Shiraz, which is not granted in the Treaty.

In short, with regard to Meerza Hashem Khan, the case is just as I before stated; I again repeat it by the Shah's orders: If Meerza Hashem Khan should start for any place as a servant of the Mission, against the inclination of the Shah, by His Majesty's orders he will be prevented; and any disagreeable consequences which may arise from such a proceeding will rest with that person who commits an irregularity by taking the initiative in a matter which is contrary to right.

Translated by
(Signed) Ronald F. Thomson.

Inclosure 5 in No. 51.

Mr. Murray to the Sadr Azim.

November 8, 1855.

I HAVE received your Highness' letter of November 6, in which you say that I expressed my surprise at your having communicated to His Majesty the Shah the contents of my despatch. If your Highness will take the trouble to read my despatch you will see that I never said anything of the kind. I expressed my surprise and my disapproval at the course you had followed in drawing the Shah in person into a discussion which, according to established custom, ought to be carried on between your Highness and myself on the part of our respective Governments. And your Highness is quite mistaken in supposing that the customs of England and of Persia are different in this respect, for in truth they are exactly the same. In both countries the Vizier submits to the Sovereign the despatches received from and addressed to foreign Missions, and, having received the Royal commands, writes accordingly in his own name and that of his Government, without drawing the Royal name and dignity into the discussion. Such has always been the practice, and I hope your Highness will conform to it. It is indeed a matter of regret to me in this instance to reflect that your Highness' last despatch will, in course of time, be submitted to the Queen; for it cannot fail to alter the opinion which my late reports will have led Her Majesty to form of the friendship entertained by your Highness for Her Majesty's Government; for it clearly appears, by the kind of threat held out in your Highness' despatch, that in a matter of the most trifling importance, and which your Highness could have explained satisfactorily in a few words to His Majesty the Shah, you are prepared to sacrifice the friendship happily existing between the two countries, which you have so lately pretended a desire to cement by a still closer alliance.

The next argument of your Highness is still more extraordinary and unfounded. You pretend to find it strange that I should inform you of the appointment of an Agent of the British Government at Shiraz, as if it were something new, and not before known to the Persian Government; whereas it is perfectly well known to your Highness that although, by Treaty, Bushire, Tabreez, and Tehran, are the only places in Persia where British Consular Agents can reside, the British Mission has for many years

entertained Agents in Shiraz, Ispahan and other cities of Persia, to assist British subjects in their affairs, and to transmit to the Mission intelligence of passing events. Although these Agents have not the privileges of Consuls, they have always been treated with courtesy by the Local Governors; and it is not long since your Highness yourself, in respect of a commercial dispute at Ispahan, ordered an Ijlas* to be held, at which the British Agent was present, to attend to the claims of the British subjects interested. As these things are perfectly familiar to your Highness, of what avail is it to waste your own time and mine by pretending that the appointment of an Agent of this class at Shiraz is unknown to the Persian Government and contrary to Treaty?

I come now to the special case of Meerza Hashem Khan. Your Highness has more than once insisted that he is in the service of the Shah, and in the receipt of a salary for service. It is my duty to inform your Highness that since I have been in Persia, and for some time previous, he has neither been in the Royal service nor has he received a farthing of salary. It may be the case that your Highness has desired that the berats† for his pay should still be made out, and that his name should be kept on the books of the War Office as if he were still in the service, on purpose to keep up this discussion with the British Mission, although you were well aware that he would not receive the pay nor re-enter the service; and that in fact he never had any office or military charge in the War Department whatsoever.

Your Highness has stated to me that no servant of the Persian Government can be considered as having left the service unless he can produce a paper of dismissal. I have made extensive inquiry, both among Europeans here and Persians, and I find these papers of dismissal, so far from being an universal custom, are of extremely rare occurrence; if a servant is to be dismissed, the common practice seems to be that a superior officer tells him to go about his business, and he goes away without receiving any paper at all. I am aware that your Highness argues that in Persia a servant cannot leave his employment without the consent of the Government; your Highness will excuse me if I decline to accept this proposition. I am well aware that in the army those who are recruited must serve, whether they will or no, unless they can pay the redemption money; and I know also that a slave must serve whether he will or no, whether he be satisfied or dissatisfied with his condition: but if your Highness argues that a Persian, not only born free, but of good and respectable family, finding himself in an employment where his salary is insufficient for his maintenance, or the labours are too great for his strength, cannot present his resignation and seek employment elsewhere, you leave no distinction between him and the slave. It may, indeed, be true, either in the Royal service, or in that of your Highness, that if you had a pish-khidmet,‡ or any other servant to whom you gave an insufficient salary, and that he came to you to ask for an increase of pay in order that he and his family might eat bread, it is in your power, instead of either letting the man seek service elsewhere or increasing his pay, to beat and imprison him, and force him to work unpaid and unhappy. I say that your Highness might have the power to do this, but it would be oppression, and not right or law; and I feel assured that His Majesty the Shah is too humane to permit such proceedings, and your Highness too enlightened to practise them.

Now the case of Meerza Hashem Khan is something of this nature; he found his salary too small for his necessary maintenance, and he applied to your Highness for an increase. Your Highness did not think fit to grant his petition; but you informed him "that you would not give him any more salary, and that he might go about his business, and get more where he could." Such is the answer that your Highness told me yourself, in presence of a member of this Mission, you had given to the Meerza; he considered this as a dismissal, and from that time never asked for nor received any pay from the Government. It is also quite evident that at that season, and also at the time of my arrival in Tehran, your Highness did not consider the Meerza as one of the actual servants of the Government, otherwise you would certainly have applied to Mr. Thomson, and afterwards to myself, to induce him to return to the duties of his service.

* Commission of Inquiry. † Government bills. ‡ Upper servant.

From all these circumstances, with which I have troubled your Highness in detail, it is clear that I, on finding Meerza Hashem Khan residing in the Mission on my arrival, and knowing that he had been more than a year out of the pay and employment of the Government, had just the same right to engage his services on the part of the British Government as I had to engage those of any Meerza, pish-khidmet, or other Persian subject in Tehran.

In obedience to the instruction of Her Majesty's Government, I have given him his tezkereh* as British Agent at Shiraz, and your Highness well knows that in that town, or on the road, or in his own house, he is as completely under the protection of the British flag as if he were within the walls of the Mission. If your Highness, therefore, causes him to be impeded or molested in the discharge of his duties, the responsibility of the serious consequences which must ensue will fall on your Highness.

Translated into Persian by
(Signed) RONALD F. THOMSON.

Inclosure 6 in No. 51.

The Sadr Azim to Mr. Murray.

(Translation.) 30 *Sefer*, 1272. (*November* 11, 1855.)

I HAVE received your Excellency's letter of the 8th instant. Although the proper and distinct answer to this question is exactly that contained in my letters of the 5th and 6th, and justice does not leave any room for discussion in the matter; still, for making the arguments more perfect, and to elucidate the case, by the Shah's orders, I beg to trouble you with this last letter in full detail.

You stated that the customs in this respect, that is, in diplomatic affairs, were similar in Europe to those in force in Persia; and that in Europe also, the commands of the Sovereign were received with obedience and submission. Such being so clearly the case, and both of us being aware of the fact, it is quite unnecessary that we should involve ourselves in troublesome discussions on the subject. But as your Excellency admits this point you ought not to have felt surprised that His Majesty the Shah should have personally taken a part in the discussion, because this is not the first instance of this rule having been adopted, nor is it an innovation. If you will take the trouble to refer to the letters in your office received from the Persian Ministers, you will certainly perceive that in a great number of these communications, expressions such as these are used:—"I have to inform you, by order of His Majesty the Shah," or, "I have laid your letter before the Shah, and His Majesty has commanded me to give the following reply." More than this, it has often happened that copies of the Shah's autograph notes addressed to me, have been inclosed in my letters, and even the original autographs have frequently been transmitted for the information of the Chief of the Mission. At all events, whether the customs in Europe in this respect are the same, or whether they are different, in this country the source from which originate all commands, both trifling and of great importance, is the person of His Majesty the Shah-in-Shah (may our souls be his sacrifice!), and all the letters written by this Government tend to prove that such is the case. Since things existed this has always been the practice in this country; and hereafter never will any change be allowed to take place. After all, the execution of the Shah's orders only, and the discussion of all matters, depend upon the Chief Minister of the State, and in foreign affairs the Foreign Minister shares with him his duty.

You also write that I had evinced a desire to strengthen the bonds of friendship between the two Governments; this had no reference whatever to any former official agreement, and I do not understand your object.

* Passport.

This can only be explained when I see you, and discuss the matter verbally with you. But with regard to your statement, that you regretted that the letter I had written by the Shah's commands would alter the opinion which Her Majesty the Queen of England would have formed of my friendship for the British Government from your letters to the Government: indeed, the expression of regret and surprise should come from me, because, from the day that I assumed the office of Sadr Azim, up to the present time, on every occasion I have clearly proved the strong desire by which I am actuated sincerely to cement the friendship between the two countries; and it is as clear as daylight that in justice no doubt can be entertained of this. But this circumstance cannot be made an argument that I should abolish the old-established customs of Persia. Certainly, Her Majesty the Queen, who takes a friendly interest in Persian affairs, instead of desiring that other regulations should be added to those now existing for the benefit of this country, will not alter her opinion of me for having preserved an old and wise rule observed in Persia, and necessary for the independence of this nation, and that Her Majesty will still retain the opinion of my friendship which she has formed from your previous letters, because she cannot wish to see this country thrown into a state of confusion. It is clear that the foundations of friendship are strengthened for the purpose of increasing the prosperity and improving the state of this country, not with a view to abolishing those laws which at present exist.

With regard to your Agents in the Persian Provinces besides Tabreez and Bushire, you have written at some length. I confess that I never supposed you would write what is irregular and not just, and insert it in an official letter. The Persian Ministers have never yet recognised any official agent on the part of the Mission excepting in the places above named, and they will not give their consent to such appointments; nor have they ever given any document or even letter of recommendation to these persons. If the Mission is in possession of any such paper let it be produced, that the Persian Minister may see it. The British Government and its Mission have agents, secret and recognised, in every part of the world, some of whom are merchants, others travellers, and others again news writers; and all these people, in consideration of the friendship felt for the British Government, receive protection. If the British Government have an agent in a particular town, it is no proof that they are formally entitled to appoint him, and the Persian Ministers have never, in any way, admitted this right, nor will they do so. Any agents which the Mission may keep in any other towns except those already specified, have been maintained with so much secresy that once, when in friendly conversation I mentioned the name of one of those persons to Sir Justin Sheil as being in his employment he denied it, and said that he had no one of that description in his pay. With regard to the Ijlas* of merchants in Ispahan, I do not even know the name of the Mission Agent in that place, and up to the present time I have never heard of such a thing. How, then, can it be that, as you state, the Mission Agent was present at that meeting? If this is true, of course you have some documentary evidence to produce from me. Let it be brought forth, that the truth may be known.

But now, with reference to the matter of Meerza Hashem Khan, and what you have written that when you came to Persia and for some time previously, that person was neither in the service of the Persian Government nor had he received one penny of pay. I never pretended that Meerza Hashem Khan received pay while he was in the Mission. When he refuses to obey and to serve, and takes up his residence in the Mission-house, it is perfectly clear that his pay will not be sent to the Mission as an offering to him. His salary bills were not issued, as you suppose, nor was his name inserted in the army list for the purpose of keeping up the discussion with the Mission. Before he went to the Mission, every year his bills were drawn out by the chief of the department and given to him, and he used to go himself and have them registered and then encashed; but after his entering the Mission, the bills were still issued, remaining, however, in the hands of the Chief, as Meerza Hashem Khan was not there to receive them and get them registered. If the intention had been to keep up the discussion with the Mission, how easy it would have been to have had his bills registered also. His being in the Military Department is a thing

* Commission of Inquiry.

well known to every one, and his position, as an officer, precludes him from paying money and procuring a substitute. Even this is unfounded, for no serbauz, after he has entered the army, and his name is enrolled in the lists, can possibly place another in his stead and leave the regiment, nor can any parallel be drawn between Meerza Hashem Khan and a pish-khidmet* or any other servant. When a child, he was in the private apartments of the late Shah's establishment, and accompanied the present Shah when he went to Tabreez. He was afterwards, when the Shah ascended the throne, a pish-kidmet for some time, but was placed, at his own desire in the War Department. Holding this post he fled to the Mission and took sanctuary there, and has remained there ever since. With regard to Persians who are free-born and are of respectable family, whose pay does not suffice for their maintenance, or who are not equal to the duties required from them, not being allowed to resign the service and seek employment elsewhere, and your observation that, if such is the case, there is no difference between them and a slave, I have to state that the position of a subject and servant of the Shah towards his master, has, in many respects, a very great resemblance to that of a slave; and no one, in the face of the Shah's wishes, can assume to himself any liberty of action. It is clear that if a law is established permitting all those who are dissatisfied with the amount of their pay to resign and seek service elsewhere, in a short time all discipline in this country would be at an end; and a soldier who receives annually only seven or eight tomauns pay, were he to receive from the Mission twelve or fourteen, and were the Mission to pay the Colonels and other officers, Mustoofees,† and Secretaries at War, who receive, more or less, from 500 to 1,000 tomauns, twice the amount of their pay, or half as much again, it would not take long for the Government to find itself without a single servant, and the Mission premises would soon swell to the size of a very large city. The Persian Government would never have in its power to submit to such a proceeding. If Meerza Hashem Khan once asked for an increase of pay, and it were refused, nothing very extraordinary happened. The Persian Ministers did not consider his services deserving of an increase of pay, and they therefore refused his demand; instead of going to the Mission and giving you all this trouble, he ought to have devoted his time to the duties of his post, and made himself worthy of higher pay and the favour of his Majesty. You state that I had said to Meerza Hashem Khan, that his pay would not be raised, and that he might go and serve where he wished: and that he had considered this equal to a dismissal. I said to him his salary would not be increased at present, and that he might go and petition his master, the Shah; and such a reply from me cannot be considered as a dismissal. Meerza Hashem Khan, and persons of respectable family like him, when dismissed, must either be told that his services are dispensed with by the Shah in person, or orders are given, and his dismissal is issued in writing. What you say, that if I had considered this person in the service I would have referred to Mr. Thomson, or afterwards to you, to induce him to return to his duties, require some remarks. In the first place, it is not the case that I had no discussion with Mr. Thomson regarding him. Mr. Thomson several times wished to send him with an employé of the Mission to me, that I might overlook his past conduct and intercede for him with the Shah; but I did not agree to this. I replied, that if he came to me, without the interference of the Mission, I would overlook the past, and treat him in future with kindness, in the same manner as the Persian Ministers had shown great kindness to a number of persons, among others, to Abbas Koolee Khan, Larijanee, to Koocheek Khan, and Hoossein Khan, who had gone without reason into the sanctuary of the Mission; but afterwards, without the intervention of the Mission, had left it. Moreover, the affair of Meerza Hashem Khan had been terminated between Mr. Thomson and myself; and I do not know why the question has been again brought forward, and a reference again made to the past. Secondly, as the Persian Ministers have found by experience that whenever they advance claims which are just and clear it produces no impression, and they are not believed, and the Mission holds its own pretensions, right or wrong, with great obstinacy—not viewing the matter with the eyes of justice, and as I am unwilling to enter into discussions and disputes, for these reasons,

* Upper Servant. † Accountants in the Treasury.

I refrain always as much as possible from commencing altercations of this description. If this had not been the case, a discussion would have been commenced by me regarding Meerza Hassan, who is now in the Mission, and has no reason whatever for remaining there. Thirdly, if out of respect for the Mission, Meerza Hashem Khan or others, while they remain in the Mission-house, are not molested, it is no evidence of the weakness of this Government in the control of their servants.

You also state that when you came to Tehran you found Meerza Hashem Khan in the Mission, where he had resided for a year, and that you were as much justified in engaging him as a servant of the British Government as you would have been at liberty to engage the services of any other Meerza or Persian subject in Tehran. I have already mentioned that this person is in the position of a man who has disobeyed orders, and is a refugee in the Mission-house, and your Excellency has no right on any plea to engage a servant of this Government in the pay of the Shah. But, yes, you have a right to employ any servant who is not a Government servant, and who is himself desirous to serve in any ordinary post in the Mission which may be necessary, and such a person has a right to accept such employment.

Be this as it may, if your Excellency, notwithstanding the just arguments of the Persian Ministers, should still dispatch this person from Tehran to any place whatsoever in the service of the Mission, I state to your Excellency distinctly that, by the orders of His Majesty the Shah, he will be seized, and any grave consequences which may arise from this will rest with your Excellency. But if he should himself leave the Mission like Abbas Koolee Khan, Koocheek Khan, and Hoossein Khan, and others, who without reason took sanctuary in the Mission, and afterwards left it without the intervention of the Mission, and were treated with kindness, he also will be kindly treated.

Translated by
(Signed) Ronald F. Thomson.

Inclosure 7 in No. 51.

Mr. Murray to the Sadr Azim.

November 14, 1855.

I HAVE received your Highness' letter of the 11th of November, and it requires a very brief reply, as all that your Highness has advanced has been already answered in my last despatch. The only point to which it is necessary to call your Highness' special attention is the fact and the manner of Meerza Hashem Khan's dismissal from the Persian service. Your Highness states in your letter that when Meerza Hashem Khan solicited an increase of pay, you told him that his salary would not be increased at "present," and "that he might go and petition his master the Shah." Now I beg to inform your Highness that these last expressions quoted were never made use of until they were written in your last letter. Your Highness' answer, as delivered to the Meerza and as stated by yourself to me, was that his pay would not be raised a farthing, and that he might go about his business and get more where he could. This answer from a Prime Minister in this country, as in all other countries, amounts to a dismissal, or, at all events, to a permission to seek service elsewhere, and the Meerza in seeking service in this Mission did no more than obey your Highness' orders. If, as your letter states, it was out of your power to dismiss a public servant without the Shah's commands, it is evident that you used those expressions either with or without His Majesty's permission: if you used them with that permission, then the man was legitimately dismissed; if your Highness used them without that permission, and thereby committed a breach of the rules of the Persian service, that is an affair which it rests with your Highness to settle with the Shah.

But, as I said before, those expressions used by your Highness were con-

sidered by the Meerza as an order or permission to retire from the public service, and to seek his wages elsewhere; they were so considered by this Mission and by Her Majesty's Government, and consequently the Meerza was taken into the British service. Your Highness writes, indeed, about his having abandoned his post in the Military Department, but it is well known to you that he never held any military post, rank, or charge whatever. Your Highness has written a great many words about this Mission, by offers of high pay, taking away hundreds of Persian officers from the public service; if these words were not in a public despatch, I should suppose your Highness to be joking, for you well know that this Mission has never taken nor wishes to take a single officer from the Persian service, and that our Persian employés amount to a certain number, which we neither wish to increase nor diminish.

I return therefore to the principal topic of this correspondence, which is to renew to your Highness a clear and unequivocal statement that Meerza Hashem Khan having been taken into the service of this Mission, and by the special order of Her Majesty's Government, I shall employ him here or elsewhere in Persia as the service of the Mission may require, and if the Persian Government seize or molest him in the discharge of his duties, the consequences of such a proceeding, which will be the same as seizing any other employé of the Mission, are well known to your Highness.

Translated into Persian by
(Signed) Ronald F. Thomson.

Inclosure 8 in No. 51.

The Sadr Azim to Mr. Murray.

(Translation.) *November* 15, 1855.

I HAVE received your Excellency's letter of yesterday's date, regarding Meerza Hashem Khan, and it also has been perused by His Majesty the Shah. By His Majesty's orders, I beg to state in reply, that there is no necessity for writing at any length. The answer is exactly that contained in my letter of the 4th November, which was written from the Royal autograph. Any consequences arising from Meerza Hashem Khan, a servant of this Government, will rest with that person who illegally commits an act at variance with the customs of this country.

With regard to the verbal communication, which I do not recollect in the least, your Excellency has written a good deal. My engagements in official business are confined to those which are contained in official documents. Anything which I may have written, or you may write, will be considered as binding and received in evidence. As the affairs of Meerza Hashem Khan were entirely terminated between me and Mr. Thomson, I do not trouble you further, and these few lines have been perused solely for your information.

Translated by
(Signed) Ronald F. Thomson.

Inclosure 9 in No. 51.

Mr. Murray to the Sadr Azim.

November 16, 1855.

IT is my duty to inform your Highness that the day before yesterday a complaint was made to me by Meerza Hashem Khan, lately taken into the service of this Mission, that his wife was forcibly detained and imprisoned in the house of Sultan Hoossein Meerza by order of the Persian Government.

On inquiry into the particulars of his complaint, I learnt that this seizure and detention of his wife was occasioned by his having taken service under

this Mission, and that she was threatened, if he did not leave the British service and protection, that she would be forcibly divorced from him.

As I could not believe, without full evidence, that the Persian Government was capable of conduct so contrary to all the rules of law and justice, I sent Meerza Hashem Khan yesterday, accompanied by two employés of the Mission, to the house of Sultan Hoossein Meerza, to demand that his wife might be restored to him. His Highness positively refused to do so. Upon this Meerza Hashem Khan produced and showed to him the fetwahs* of two of the principal Mooshtehids † in Tehran, proving to him the illegality of his proceedings. He replied, that he was perfectly aware of the law on the subject, but that he was acting under orders which he could not disobey, and that if any further explanation were required, application must be made to your Highness.

It must be some secret and malignant enemy of your Highness who has persuaded you to order or to sanction this most irregular and unjust proceeding, which is at once an affront to a friendly Government and a flagrant violation of the laws of Islam. Those who have evinced their courage in threatening and terrifying an imprisoned woman, will scarcely have the courage to avow that, by the Persian laws, a wife not charged with any crime can lawfully be withheld from her husband, or that she can be forcibly divorced by command of any third party, without the consent of her husband.

It is not, however, my object at present to comment upon any acts of injustice committed by the Persian Government, so long as they do not affect persons connected with this Mission; but as in the present case the complainant is in the employment and under the protection of the British Government, and as on that very ground his wife is forcibly imprisoned and withheld from him, it is my duty to request that your Highness will give immediate orders for the lady's liberation and restoration to her husband.

Translated into Persian by
(Signed) Ronald F. Thomson.

Inclosure 10 in No. 51.

The Sadr Azim to Mr. Murray.

(Translation.) *November* 17, 1855.

I HAVE received your Excellency's letter of yesterday's date. As the subject of which it treats touches on a discussion regarding ladies—moreover those connected with the Royal harem, and clashes with the honour of His Majesty; and as the discussion of such a subject is not only extremely delicate, and not to be thought of in this country, but is also unprecedented, I have always myself avoided doing so, and have never allowed myself even to contemplate the matter, far less to make it a subject of a correspondence with any person being a foreigner, and the Representative of a foreign Government.

It being quite out of my power to discuss this matter in any way, and more especially in an official correspondence, I therefore, with the greatest respect, beg to state this much in reply to your Excellency, that I am excused from considering your letter as an official communication, and that I am in duty bound to look upon it as if it had never been received.

Translated by
(Signed) Ronald F. Thomson.

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* Religious decrees. † High-priests.

Inclosure 11 in No. 51.

Mr. Murray to the Sadr Azim.

November 17, 1855.

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge your Highness' despatch dated 17th November; and in reply, to inform your Highness that, although you are pleased to state that, on account of the nature of the subject of which it treats, you cannot consider my despatch of the 16th as official, it is my duty to state, that not only is it official but that the continuance of the friendly relations existing between the Persian Government and this Mission depend upon the answer which your Highness gives to the demand contained in it, and renewed in what I now write.

Your Highness truly says that an official discussion concerning ladies, and especially ladies connected with the Royal "anderoon," is a matter of extreme delicacy, and without precedent. I grant it; but I add, that, however unbecoming or precedented it may be, the blame of it rests with those who have provoked it; for it is also unbecoming and unprecedented that the Persian Government should give orders for the forcible detention and imprisonment of the wife of an employé in this Mission.

Your Highness well knows that the protection enjoyed by employés in this and other foreign Missions, extends to their houses and family; and the Persian Government, in seizing and imprisoning the wife of Meerza Hashem Khan, has offered the same affront to Her Majesty's Government as if they had seized and imprisoned the Meerza himself, which last step your Highness has informed me officially that you would take if I sent him on the duty to which he has been appointed. Although I do not intend to enter into any further discussion on this matter, I wish to give your Highness full time to consider the consequences of the decision to which you may come; and I therefore now officially inform you that if, by 12 o'clock on Monday next, the wife of Meerza Hashem Khan is not set free and restored to her husband, the flag of the Mission will be hauled down, and the responsibility of the interruption of friendly relations between the British and the Persian Governments will rest on those who have caused it, by an act of flagrant and unprecedented injustice.

Translated into Persian by

(Signed) RONALD F. THOMSON.

No. 52.

Mr. Murray to the Earl of Clarendon.—(Received January 1, 1856.)

(Extract.) *Tehran, November* 20, 1855.

IN continuation of the matter contained in my despatch of the 17th instant, I have the honour to inform your Lordship that yesterday Prince Seïf-ed-dowleh Meerza called upon me on the part of the Sadr Azim and discussed at length the case of Meerza Hashem Khan. He said that with regard to the liberating of the Meerza's wife and restoring her to her husband, there would be no difficulty about it, and it might be effected immediately; but in that case he wished to know what I meant to do in respect to the Meerza himself. I replied that I should send him to Shiraz in obedience to the instructions of Her Majesty's Government. To this he replied that such a proceeding would be very painful to the Shah and to the Persian Government, after all the correspondence that had taken place, and asked me whether there was no course which I could suggest by which a satisfactory arrangement might be effected. To this I replied that, in order to show that it was not my wish to drive matters to extremes, I was ready to restore Meerza Hashem Khan to the Persian service, provided the Persian Government, after having liberated his wife, offered to the Meerza a salary somewhat better than that attached to our Shiraz Agency, and gave me a document assuring its continuance and the safety of the Meerza's person, family, &c. The proposals made by the Prince on

the part of the Government were reasonable, and indeed liberal, so I agreed to allow him to negotiate an amicable arrangement of the affair on this basis.

As our conversation had been of some duration, and the hour of noon fixed in my despatch to the Sedr Azim as the time at which my flag would be struck if the Meerza's wife were not liberated, was near at hand, he asked for two hours' delay in order that the Shah's pleasure might be taken; to this I acceded. Just as the time had elapsed, and the Meerza was on his way to demand his wife, a messenger came down post haste from the Prince asking for two hours' more delay, on the plea that His Majesty had been out riding and had only just returned; to this I again acceded.

Whether the Persian Government considered these concessions of delay, and my listening to their proposals of a compromise, as a proof of weakness or hesitation, I know not; but certain it is that when, a little before sunset, the Meerza went to demand his wife's liberation, it was peremptorily refused, and an answer given that it could not be done without an order from the Sadr Azim. On receiving this intelligence, just as I was about to give an order for striking the flag, Hyder Effendi, the Ottoman Chargé d'Affaires, came to me on the part of Sadr Azim, with whom he had discussed the whole affair; he acknowledged that, in his own opinion, I was entirely in the right, and the conduct of the Persian Government in seizing and imprisoning the Meerza's wife entirely indefensible; but he entreated me to defer striking my flag till the following morning, in order that he might have time to go back to the palace and persuade the Persian Government to send back the Meerza's wife, the same evening, under charge of her brother, to her husband's house. To this I replied that, although the behaviour of the Sadr in this matter deserved and would obtain from me no such concession, out of my regard for Hyder Effendi himself, and my respect for the office which he held, I agreed to his request, and he left me to return to the Sadr. About 10 P.M. I received a note from him, saying that the Sadr could do nothing in the matter, as the Shah was on a visit to his mother, and he asked for twenty-four hours' more delay; I received, also, about the same hour, a private note from M. Bourée urging me in the strongest terms to give a further delay of a few days. To these two notes I replied by expressing my regret that it was out of my power to agree to the suggestions contained in them, as the pretexts and subterfuges to which the Persian Government had had recourse during the preceding three days, proved to me that they had no intention of acceding to my just and peremptory demand for the liberation of the Meerza's wife.

I regret very much that it has been out of my power in this instance to adopt the views and counsel of my French colleague, but in this case I held the maintenance of the rights and honour of this Mission to be a consideration of higher importance than the inconveniences which might be consequent upon the temporary suspension of relations with the Persian Government, and accordingly this morning I have struck my flag.

Although I feel fully assured of your Lordship's support and approbation upon the grounds heretofore set forth, yet in full justification of a measure so serious and so contrary to my own wishes and those of Her Majesty's Government, I am compelled to state additional grounds which I would gladly have withheld from the pages of an official correspondence. I refer to the language held by the Sadr Azim, both verbally and in writing, respecting myself and other members of this Mission. His Highness on two several occasions has said to two European gentlemen, both holding official situations at Tehran, that the reason why Mr. Thomson first took Meerza Hashem Khan into the Mission and retained him under protection, was that he had an intrigue with the Meerza's wife; he has also stated more lately the same thing of myself as my reason for continuing the protection and employment of the Meerza, and he has spread this report throughout the whole of the Shah's palace. Now, my Lord, as this calumny is as gross and groundless in both cases as if it had been directed against the character of the Sadr's own mother, I respectfully ask your Lordship whether such conduct on the part of Sadr, the unjustifiable slander of a lady so nearly related to the Shah, and the attribution of such motives for my public conduct and that of Mr. Thomson, are not most offensive, reprehensible, and hypocritical actions, when proceeding from the Prime Minister, who penned

the inclosure in my despatch of the 17th instant, in which he says that he never would dare to speak, much less to write, on matters so delicate as those in which the Harem is concerned?

I have yet to add, that only yesterday the Sadr addressed to me a despatch most offensive and unbecoming, in which allusion, or rather insinuation, respecting the same subject occurs, and a threat is held out that if I strike my flag his Highness will be compelled to make certain disclosures, &c.

I appeal to your Lordship whether, under these calumnies, these personal affronts to myself, and these insults to the Mission, above all, under the threat above alluded to, I should have been worthy to hold the charge intrusted to me if I had hesitated to strike a flag which had been so grossly and unjustifiably insulted?

The despatch in which the offensive passage above alluded to occurs, is not inclosed in this despatch, because the Prince and another messenger from the Court have been here this morning to inquire whether there are no means of accommodating this dispute and arranging it so that the flag may be rehoisted before the departure of the courier to-morrow. I have replied that after what has passed, the dispute admits of no arrangement, unless as preliminary steps the Meerza's wife be restored to her husband, and the Sadr Azim comes to the Mission in person to withdraw his yesterday's despatch and to make me an apology for writing it. On these conditions, I have agreed to rehoist the flag and not to forward to your Lordship a copy of the aforesaid despatch.

To-morrow I will not fail to send to your Lordship the latest accounts of the progress of this affair.

No. 53.

Mr. Murray to the Earl of Clarendon.—(*Received January* 1, 1856.)

(Extract.) *Tehran, November* 21, 1855.

I HAVE the honour to inform your Lordship that yesterday, after I had finished my preceding despatch, M. Bourée dined and spent the evening with me; before leaving he entreated me to allow him to make a last effort to accommodate the pending dispute, so that my flag might be rehoisted before the departure of the courier to-day at 12, and he asked me what terms I had proposed or could propose. I told him those mentioned in the conclusion of my despatch of yesterday to your Lordship. He said that the liberation of the Meerza's wife was indeed a necessary preliminary measure, but that he thought that the forcing the Sadr to come here in person on such short notice, to withdraw and apologise for his offensive despatch, was a humiliation somewhat hard to exact, and one to which the Persian Government could hardly be expected to submit; and he asked if I would not be satisfied if the Sadr Azim, in lieu of coming in person, wrote to me officially this morning to retract and withdraw his offensive despatch and to apologise for having written it. I replied that I should not be satisfied, because in this city, when the British flag was lowered, the Sadr Azim coming in person with fifty attendants, to make reparation, would be a fact known to every one; whereas, his written despatch would be known to few, and among Persians he would not scruple to deny having apologised at all.

M. Bourée entreated me to accept the written apology if it was sent. Thus appealed to, I could not refuse his request, and I promised him that if, before noon to-day, the Meerza's wife was restored to her husband, and I received a full written retractation of, and apology for, the offensive despatch, I would not forward the latter to your Lordship, and I would resume diplomatic relations with the Persian Court.

2 P.M.—M. Bourée has just returned from a long interview with the Sadr, and has brought with him a letter of retractation and apology for the offensive dispatch, which I might have accepted if the Meerza's wife had been restored to her husband, which I had insisted on as a preliminary measure.

Instead of this M. Bourée was bearer of a proposal that the Government should place the lady in the house of her mother-in-law. To this I have replied that I can no more admit the transfer of the wife from one relative's house to another without her own consent, or that of her husband, than I can admit the right of the Persian Government to imprison her where she now is, and that I renew my demand for her restoration to her husband in his own house as the sole basis of the resumption of negotiation. M. Bourée wished me to wait while he wrote again to the Sadr, to renew a demand on this last head. I told M. Bourée that I appreciated his well-intentioned endeavours, but as this very proposal of the Sadr's had already been made and refused twice, it proved to me that it was a mere pretext to gain time, and that the courier must leave immediately. I would beg him simply to inform the Sadr that I had declined the proposal, and that therefore his attempt at mediation has failed.

P.S.—Under the existing circumstances, it is my duty to forward to your Lordship the offensive despatch I have alluded to.

Inclosure in No. 53.

The Sadr Azim to Mr. Murray.

(Translation.) *November* 19, 1855.

I HAVE received your Excellency's letter of the 17th instant. I have been greatly surprised and puzzled to imagine why you have unjustly interfered in and pressed an affair of such delicacy and danger that even I, the moment I perceived it had reference to the Royal harem, and had given great offence to His Majesty, immediately shunned, and avoided the matter completely. Far less, then, ought a person who represents a foreign Government and country to interfere on such a point. The question regarding Meerza Hashem Khan himself, which has been under discussion between us, has not yet been terminated; and the Persian Ministers have never admitted that he is a servant of the British Mission, nor will they ever admit such a thing. They still consider him as a refugee Persian officer who has taken sanctuary in the Mission, like Meerza Hassan, who is still within the precincts of the Mission, and whom your Excellency unjustly protects. How, then, can the right to protect the dependents of Meerza Hashem Khan be recognised? Moreover, no answer has yet been received from you to my last letter of the 15th instant; and under these circumstances, by what right and on what grounds has a new question been mooted, in which is involved the honour of His Majesty the Shah? All that was necessary in the shape of explanation and just arguments was advanced by me with regard to Meerza Hashem Khan, and if you will examine them with the eyes of justice, they are not without reason.

If your Excellency, for certain reasons, has overlooked the first question, and persists in urging the second—which I have neither the power nor permission to argue or touch upon; nay, if, as stated in your letter under acknowledgment, you should endanger the friendship which has endured for so many years between Persia and England, I distinctly state to your Excellency that even this will be for the Persian Ministers easier than, by agreeing to your unjust proceeding, to submit to the serious confusions which would arise, and which would endanger the independence of Persia; nay, even the security of all and sundry of its inhabitants.

In such an event, the Persian Ministers will have nothing for it but to state what they have not yet considered it suitable to record in an official note, that is, the true reason. They will then, being forced to the announcement, let the foreign community in this country know, what they have not hitherto understood, the laws of the Mahomedan religion, and the chaste desires of the Persian people. They will refer the case to the justice of the British Ministers, and hold your Excellency responsible for the consequences.

P.S.—The British Ministers, as was once intimated to us, are desirous that the Persian Government should adopt measures for treating their subjects and dependents in accordance with the principles of justice and equity, so that people should not be forced, from injustice and oppression, to have recourse to the sanctuary of the Mission, and to give rise to so much trouble; but they were not aware of the fact that persons seek the asylum of the Mission premises, not against injustice, but to procure an increase of pay, or station, or with some other idea, and in this way caused annoyance. At all events I am always ready to discuss, in this present case or in any other, either verbally or in writing, when your Excellency has just arguments to advance, and I am prepared to trouble you with verbal communications.

Translated by
(Signed) RONALD F. THOMSON.

No. 54.

The Earl of Clarendon to Mr. Murray.

(Extract.) *Foreign Office, January* 4, 1856.

I HAVE received your despatches of the 17th and 20th of November, reporting in detail your differences with the Persian Government on account of their refusal to acknowledge Hashem Khan as British Agent at Shiraz; and I have to acquaint you that Her Majesty's Government approve of your striking your flag and no longer listening to the request for delay before resorting to that measure.

No. 55.

Lord Stratford de Redcliffe to the Earl of Clarendon.—(*Received January* 14.)

My Lord, *Constantinople, January* 3, 1856.

THE Persian Chargé d'Affaires, acting under the instructions of his Government, sought an interview with me the day before yesterday. His object was to deliver a letter and accompanying note addressed to me by the Persian Grand Vizier, with reference to Mr. Murray's late proceedings and their present termination in his departure from Persia. He had no authority to enter into the merits of the question with me, and your Lordship is aware that I have no such authority myself. He expressed the deepest regret that any misunderstanding should have taken place between his Government and Her Majesty's Representative. It was evidently expected that I should interfere to effect a reconciliation without any surrender of the Persian pretension. It would, indeed, be highly gratifying to me if I could in any becoming way be instrumental to the re-establishment, on proper grounds, of a good understanding between the estranged parties; and I am persuaded that the French Ambassador would willingly assist in the accomplishment of so good a work. Having occasion to see his Excellency yesterday, I found the Persian Chargé d'Affaires engaged in talking over the subject with him, and I availed myself of the opportunity to repeat what I had stated before to the latter, namely, that I had no control over Mr. Murray's proceedings, that I joined with him in regretting an incident which was anything but opportune, and could only hope that the Persian Government would prove the sincerity of its assurances by enabling Mr. Murray to return to Tehran with satisfaction, reserving the power, if necessary and desirable, of appealing to Her Majesty's Government for a final decision on the point in dispute.

Inclosed herewith, in copy, are the letters which I have received from the Persian Sadr Azim. A rumour prevails that Mr. Murray is on his way to Samsoon.

I have, &c.
(Signed) STRATFORD DE REDCLIFFE.

Inclosure in No. 55.

The Persian Prime Minister to Lord Stratford de Redcliffe.

(Translation.) *November* 29, 1855.

THE intelligence of your Excellency's personal well-being, and the reputation of your distinguished qualities, have encouraged me, who from my first entrance upon the duties of my high office up to the present time, have been constantly and most cordially endeavouring to strengthen the relations of friendship between the Governments of Persia and England, to bring those circumstances to your notice which I have deemed hostile to the continuance of that friendship, and which must appear most critical in the eyes of every thinking and intelligent person; and in this sense I beg to appeal to the sagacity of your Excellency for assistance. I had previously communicated to you the conduct of former British Agents, and to that representation answer was made that a new English Minister had been appointed: from this nomination I had entertained strong hopes of compensation for the past and improvement for the future. Indeed, upon Mr. Murray's arrival in Tehran, his conduct, as long as he was actuated by his own sincerity, justified your Excellency's promise; but a change speedily took place under the influence of interested followers, and the line of conduct above alluded to became but more pronounced. On the 18th Zilhidgé I addressed a second document, being an instruction to Meerza Ahmed Khan, the Persian Chargé d'Affaires at Constantinople, in which he was directed to bring these particulars to the notice of your Excellency. For our part, in conducting ourselves in a spirit of acquiescence towards Mr. Murray, and in acting upon his representations, we used the utmost exertions in our power to avoid the possibility of any injury occurring to the friendship of the two countries from the hardness with which that Minister bore upon us; but, alas! all these endeavours of mine have proved fruitless. Whatever difference former Agents may have had with us, their coldness never was such as to close the path of satisfaction; the present Minister, however, will not meet our advances in the course of reconciliation, but, by his violent and untenable propositions, which it is impossible for this country to accept, as being in many ways ruinous to its interests, and which involve no possible difference or advantage to England, he has broken off his relations with the Persian Government. There are thus no means left us for explaining the circumstances except by sending the entire correspondence between the Persian Government and Mr. Murray to Meerza Ahmed Khan, for communication to your Excellency. That Mr. Murray, unacquainted as he is with the practices and tenets of this country, solely influenced by a desire to satisfy the people about him, and carrying out their interested objects, should have so easily disregarded a friendship of so many years' duration, has caused the most profound regret to the Persian Government; yet I derive consolation from two circumstances—the one being the judgment and clear-sightedness of the British Government, and their appreciation of the nature and extent of that friendship which it has for so many years been the endeavour of both parties to cherish; the other is based upon the justice of your Excellency and your efficacious and powerful goodwill, which I specially invoke, under present circumstances, in order most effectually to counterbalance the recent conduct of British Agents, by an appeal to a statesman of such distinguished reputation. I am convinced that the British Government, appreciating as it does the maintenance of mutual friendship, will not confirm the propositions in question, which, besides their casting slight and discredit on Persia, are without doubt of such a nature that she cannot entertain them; and that you, who have rendered your justice, integrity, and goodwill so universally celebrated, will not in any way approve of

such a proceeding as that the friendly relations of the two countries should in this manner be neglected and thrown back without cause.

(Seal of the Meerza Agha Khan.)

18 *Rebiul-evvel*, 1272.

Translation of a Note accompanying the above Letter.

After Compliments.

With reference to the lady in question, to Mr. Murray's business, and to his unjustifiable termination of our relations, I shall appear upon due reflection to have performed a great service, and evinced strong proof of goodwill towards the two countries. Meerza Ahmed Khan will inform your Excellency of all the particulars, and will place in your hands the originals of documents issuing from the most noted Ulemah of the capital. You will know what a serious affair took place here in the time of his deceased Majesty, Fatteh Ali Shah, about a Georgian girl; and also how vigilant an attention I have paid to the safety of the British Mission in an affair as serious as the present one, when the honour of the Sovereign is in question, when all the Ulemahs have come forward in writing, and when the city populace have risen in tumult. For the particulars, I beg again to refer you to the statements of Meerza Ahmed Khan. Further I will not trouble you.

20 *Rebiul-evvel*, 1272.

No. 56.

Mr. Murray to the Earl of Clarendon.—(*Received January* 22, 1856.)

(Extract.) *Tehran, November* 28, 1855.

I HAVE the honour to inclose, for your Lordship's information, copies of the correspondence that has taken place respecting the case of Meerza Hashem Khan, and the suspension of diplomatic relations, from which your Lordship will see that the Persian Ministers having dragged the Shah personally into the arena of discussion, the rupture has been thereby widened, and an amicable solution rendered more difficult.

His Majesty's first autograph letter (Inclosure No. 3) contained some expressions respecting Mr. Consul Stevens, in reply to which, in my letter (Inclosure No. 5), I animadverted with some severity on the conduct of His Majesty's Minister. The Shah, in his second autograph letter (Inclosure No. 8), omits all the customary forms of courtesy employed here in speaking of a foreign Minister, and speaks of me as "Mr. Murray." He complains of my recommencing correspondence while my flag is struck, forgetting that he had been the cause of it by writing a long letter himself, and causing his foreign Minister to write another, after I had suspended diplomatic relations: he orders my last despatch to be sent back, and in the body of his letter he endorses and sanctions the offensive calumnies previously propagated by his Minister, in writing those words quoted in the inclosure, "Mr. Murray's object is this, forcibly to take (or carry off) the sister of my wife." My last reply to His Majesty's letter (Inclosure No. 9) was refused admission, and brought back by my messenger, who succeeded, however, on the following morning in placing it in the Foreign Minister's hands.

On the morning of the 23rd, the Sadr Azim's confidant (Meer Alee Nekkee Khan), called on me about 10. He told me that three hours previously he had seen the Sadr, and had found him in very low spirits, and that his Highness had said to him that he must put an end to this unpleasant difference, and that he should call on me in the course of the day and make the required reparation. The fact of his having that intention must have been known at the Palace,

for the Ferrashes who accompanied Meer Alee Nekkee Khan told my servants that the Sadr was coming down to pay me a visit. He did not come, however.

The Sadr Azim gives out that he has sent to Europe (probably thereby meaning to London and Paris) such complaints and charges against myself, and also against Mr. Consul Stevens, as cannot fail to bring both to disgrace. I am not the least afraid of what his Highness can write to any quarter where calumny is despised and falsehood easily detected. Your Lordship will, unless some of my despatches miscarry, have before you the whole correspondence that has passed on this subject; you will see the affronts offered to the Mission; the insults and calumnies directed against myself; the infructuous pains that I took to accommodate matters before striking my flag; and if I am not mistaken in the sentiments of your Lordship and Her Majesty's Government, I should have deservedly been recalled from this post, had I failed in resenting as I have done the illegal proceedings and offensive language of the Persian Government.

Inclosure 1 in No. 56.

Mr. Murray to the Persian Minister for Foreign Affairs.

Excellency, *November* 20, 1855.

THE conduct of the Persian Government having rendered (necessary) the lowering of the flag of this Mission, and the interruption of diplomatic relations between the two countries, according to the contents of my despatch written to the Sadr Azim on Saturday last, and to the verbal messages conveyed to his Highness yesterday, I beg to inform your Excellency that it is my intention to withdraw the British Mission to the Turkish territory; and I shall be obliged if the Persian Government will designate a Mehmandar to accompany me to the Persian frontier, as soon as my preparations for departure are completed. I beg also to inform your Excellency that during the absence of the Mission, Her Britannic Majesty's Consul will remain at Tehran, and all the affairs and claims of British subjects, or persons enjoying British protection, will be placed under his charge.

Translated into Persian by

(Signed) Ronald F. Thomson.

Inclosure 2 in No. 56.

The Persian Minister for Foreign Affairs to Mr. Murray.

(Translation.) *November* 23, 1855.

AFTER all the expressions of friendship of the Persian Ministers, and after all their endeavours to maintain the friendly relations between Persia and England, your Excellency has, contrary to my hopes, broken off diplomatic relations and asked for a Mehmandar. It is with regret that I have to state, in reply, that as the Persian Ministers have submitted as far as is in their power to your Excellency's propositions, which are unjust, and have evinced moderation, and as you, notwithstanding this, have persisted in suspending relations, the Persian Ministers are compelled to nominate Hadee Khan, Colonel, to be your Mehmandar.

By the Shah's command, copies of the correspondence which has passed between the Persian Ministers and your Excellency on this subject will be specially forwarded direct, with a statement of the true reason for this discussion, which they have already promised to advance, showing the facts and the true state of the case, to the Ministers of the British Government, and moreover, the Ministers of foreign Governments who reside in Tehran will be informed of the circumstances. The case will be submitted to the sense of justice of the British Ministers.

With regard to what you have written, that it is your intention to instruct the British Consul to remain in Tehran during the absence of the Mission to take charge of the commercial affairs of English subjects, I beg, with the greatest respect, to state that, on account of the proceedings and position of Mr. Stevens, and the expectations which they entertain from a person of his disposition, the Persian Ministers do not consider it expedient that he should remain in Tehran, and they believe it to be at variance with the interests of both countries that he should do so. Your Excellency is therefore at liberty to place any officer you may deem it advisable, with the exception of Mr. Stevens.

P.S.—His Majesty the Shah has done me the honour to address to me an autograph, respecting your request for a Mehmandar, and I am directed to transmit to you herewith a copy of that note.

Translated by
(Signed) Ronald F. Thomson.

Inclosure 3 in No. 56.

Autograph Note from the Shah to the Persian Minister for Foreign Affairs.

(Translation.)

Minister for Foreign Affairs, *November* 22, 1855.

I HAVE seen the British Minister's letter, and I am aware of his intention to leave, and of his request for a Mehmandar. Indeed, if the advantages which are to accrue to us from the residence of a British Minister here are those which we see, it is for the benefit of both Governments that he should quarrel and depart. Whenever I contrast my own sincerity to the British Government, and the expectations which I entertain at heart from their friendship with the conduct of the Mission, I am drowned in a sea of amazement. Do you suppose that the Mission of such a great Government resides in Tehran merely to cause every day some new detriment to the dignity and reputation of our Government? It is always the protector of the perverse and obstinate, and of the simpletons of our household, who, without being injured in the least, are invited to the Mission with the temptation of increase of pay and position. They are ever desirous to humiliate this Government, and they interfere in the internal affairs of this country in such a way that the rights of the guest now exceed those of the master and host. According to treaty, we possess the right to demand the dismissal and withdrawal from office of foreign Consuls, in the event of our being dissatisfied with them. They do not respect our wishes in regard to a person like Meerza Hashem Khan, a servant in the Government pay and one of our subjects, and in their opposition to us they forget their own dignity and that of their Government. Meerzas out of employment were not so scarce in Tehran that they should, for Meerza Hashem, a servant in our pay, make us and themselves the subject of discussion amongst strangers and natives.

With regard to what he has written, that he will leave a Consul here, if by Consul he means Mr. Stevens, whose proceedings and mischief-making, while living in Tabreez, would fill ten books, and whose proceedings here are just what you now see—when Mr. Murray, as Minister Plenipotentiary, has become the cause of coolness and misunderstanding in this way between the two Governments, what are we to expect, and what confidence can we have in a person like Mr. Stevens, notorious for his mischief-making? If the British Minister goes, let him take with him Mr. Stevens; let him place some one else in his place. Send a copy of this autograph in answer to the Minister's letter, and prepare the details of his conduct for the information of the British Ministers, together with the real truth of the question. If the British Minister desires the humiliation of this Government, of course we, so long as we have the power, will not submit to any indignity.

P.S.—The propositions of the British Minister are such as cannot be agreed to, and whoever is a true servant of ours will not submit to these conditions. Send a copy of this to the British Minister, and copies of the others to the foreign Ministers resident here, who, in perfect justice, will coincide with us.

Translated by
(Signed) Ronald F. Thomson.

Inclosure 4 in No. 56.

Mr. Murray to the Persian Minister for Foreign Affairs.

November 24, 1855.

I BEG to acknowledge your Excellency's despatch of yesterday's date, informing me that the Persian Government have appointed Hadee Khan, Colonel, to be my Mehmandar, on the withdrawal of this Mission from Tehran; a step to which I have been compelled by the offensive conduct of the Persian Government in imprisoning a person under the protection of this Mission contrary to the laws of nations, and also to the laws of Persia, and afterwards writing me the most offensive despatch ever addressed to a foreign Minister.

I am happy to learn that, by the Shah's commands, the correspondence which has passed on both sides is to be communicated to foreign Governments, and I trust it will be communicated entire, and without the omission of any part, because then the right of the question will be generally known, and all foreign Governments will agree that a Minister who has received insults such as have been offered to me, especially in the last despatch addressed to me by the Sadr Azim, had no choice but to strike his flag, if he could not obtain satisfaction. With respect to the statements regarding the true origin of this discussion, which the Persian Government threaten to send to Europe, I presume that your Excellency will let me know what they are, either before or after they are sent.

With respect to what your Excellency has written concerning the stay of Mr. Consul Stevens in Tehran, to take care of the affairs of British subjects during the absence of the Mission, it is my duty to inform you that it is out of my power to make any change in the arrangement that I intimated in my last letter. It is not by my choice or selection that Mr. Stevens remains here in charge during my absence; it is simply because he is Consul, and according to the law of nations, unless it be the intention to declare war, the Consul is always left in charge when the functions of the Mission are suspended. The Consul is appointed here by the Queen of England, and not by me; and if one or two members of the Persian Government have a personal dislike to Mr. Stevens, it is a matter to be regretted, but I cannot, on that account, violate the regulations of diplomacy, or depute an Attaché to perform duties which belong to a Consul. Further, I take upon myself to assure your Excellency, that if Mr. Consul Stevens is treated in the discharge of his duties with justice and propriety, the Persian Government will have no reason to complain of any unfairness or want of courtesy on his part.

Translated into Persian by
(Signed) Ronald F. Thomson.

Inclosure 5 in No. 56.

Mr. Murray to the Persian Minister for Foreign Affairs.

November 24, 1855.

IT is my duty to transmit to your Excellency a memorandum in reply to the Royal autograph with which you were yesterday honoured, and of which

you sent me a copy. I request that your Excellency will transmit the original of my reply to His Majesty the Shah.

Memorandum.

Having carefully read the letter of His Majesty the Shah, and understood its contents, it becomes my duty, first, to assure His Majesty of my high respect, and that whosoever may have informed His Majesty that I, personally, or as representing the British Government wish to impose any humiliation on His Majesty, or any detriment to the Royal dignity, has told His Majesty a malicious untruth for the purpose of bring about the differences now existing between this Mission and the Persian Goverment. They have also untruly told His Majesty, as they have written to me, that I am always taking under protection mischievous and troublesome Persian servants, and inviting Persian officers to enter the service of the Mission for higher pay. All these falsehoods have been stated on purpose to poison the Shah's mind against myself, although those who have written and spoken them well know that since my arrival I have not taken under British protection one single officer or servant of the Persian Government, and the only two serious discussions which I have had on this subject with the Persian Ministers have both been respecting persons who had been in the Mission, or connected with it, long before it came under my charge.

With respect to Meerza Hashem Khan, the whole difficulty, from its commencement to its conclusion, has been owing to the ill-will and the ill-advised proceedings of the Sadr Azim. It is a fact, perfectly well established, that two years ago his Highness did employ expressions which were equivalent to dismissing the Meerza and allowing him to seek employment where he could find it. I had this admission from his Highness' own lips in presence of a member of this Mission; and yet when I reminded his Highness of it in a late despatch, he wrote me in reply that his engagements in official business were confined to those supported by written evidence, and only those would be considered binding.

The Shah mentions in his letter that it is his intention to send the whole of the correspondence on this matter to European Governments. Does His Majesty think that it will redound to the honour of the Persian Court that the highest officer in the service should deny his own words, and admit in an official despatch that his verbal statements were of no value?

If the Sadr Azim had shown prudence and goodwill in this matter, it might have been arranged at first with the greatest ease. If it were true that on my arrival here Meerza Hashem Khan was an officer in the Royal service, and receiving pay, it was his Highness' duty to inform me of it, in order that steps might be taken for settling the matter; but his Highness never spoke a word to me concerning it, and as I was informed that the Meerza had been more than a year in the Mission without employment, and without pay, I considered it the best arrangement for all parties that he should go as Agent to Shiraz, to which post Her Britannic Majesty's Government accordingly instructed me to appoint him. It is since the receipt of that appointment that the conduct of the Persian Government has been most improper and offensive, and has thus compelled me to allude in public despatches to subjects that ought not to appear in official correspondence. They seized and imprisoned the wife of Meerza Hashem Khan, thereby not only violating the paper of protection given to him and to his house, but also violating the civil and sacred law; and thus, while pretending in their letters that matters belonging to the harem were too delicate to be written about or referred to, they took a step which necessarily caused these very matters to become the talk of all the city. More than this, his Highness the Sadr Azim himself, on more than one occasion, and in the presence of many people, has, in connection with these matters, attributed the basest motives to this Mission as the reason for the protection given to Meerza Hashem Khan and his family. I doubt not that his Highness will deny having uttered such expressions, as I have seen in other instances how little it costs his Highness to deny his own words; but I know they were used by him, and the subject is again insinuated in his Highness' official letter of the 19th of November, in which it is coupled with a species of threat. Does His Majesty think that I or any other British Minister could submit to these affronts, these false unwarrantable

calumnies, and these offensive threats, from the head of the Persian Government, or could consent to continue diplomatic relations until full reparation has been made? And has it not occurred to His Majesty that when that despatch is sent to and read by any friendly Governments, they will all agree that the Mission flag must be lowered, unless I received the reparation that I required?

With respect to the Consul's remaining at Tehran in the absence of the Mission, I have explained that matter in the accompanying letter. It is an error to suppose that by Treaty the Persian Government possesses the right to demand the withdrawal of any foreign Consul with whom it is dissatisfied. Such a right does not belong by Treaty to the Persian or to any other Government, excepting the right to object to any particular Consul at the time of his nomination. When once appointed he cannot be sent away at the pleasure of any Government excepting his own.

The Royal autograph uses some harsh expressions respecting the conduct of Mr. Consul Stevens at Tabreez. I think the Shah may remember some good services that the Consul rendered to His Majesty at the time that he ascended the throne, but some time afterwards he reported truly the proceedings of the Tabreez Government, and the cruelty, extortion, and injustice by which the fine province of Azerbijan was and is almost ruined; then he became a "moofsid"* in the eyes of those who wished that the truth should be concealed from the Shah. Not only Mr. Stevens, but all who approach His Majesty, and who might possibly tell him some truths not found in the Tehran Gazettes, all those are to be kept at a distance as "moofsids!"

There are various expressions in the Royal autograph which set forth that in the Shah's opinion this Mission has shown a desire to infringe the privileges and lower the dignity of His Majesty. I can only imagine that these expressions have fallen from His Majesty inadvertently while his mind has been irritated by the pernicious counsels of those who wish to destroy the friendship which had so long existed between the two High Powers. His Majesty knows that Great Britain has always been desirous to maintain his independence and honour, and since my arrival here I have been governed in my conduct by the same sentiments; but in respect to the rupture that has lately taken place between the Persian Government and myself, it is my duty to let His Majesty plainly understand that I cannot and will not permit myself to be unjustly calumniated, and the British Government to be affronted, without maintaining my right to a full and satisfactory reparation.

Translated into Persian by
(Signed) Ronald F. Thomson.

Inclosure 6 in No. 56.

The Persian Minister for Foreign Affairs to Mr. Murray.

(Translation.)

Excellency, *November* 26, 1855.

I HAVE received your Excellency's letter of the 24th instant. Notwithstanding the reasons which have been repeatedly advanced in the case of Meerza Mashem Khan, and notwithstanding that you had, to the extreme regret of the Persian Ministers, unjustly suspended diplomatic relations, your Excellency has in a separate letter made use of certain expressions which, without any doubt, are detrimental in the highest degree to the dignity of this Government and of its First Minister, the Sadr Azim.

One of the objectionable arguments is that in which you have again had recourse to the statement that his Highness the Sadr Azim had verbally employed expressions which amounted to the dismissal of Meerza Hashem Khan. His Highness the Sadr Azim has no recollection of such a circumstance, or of his ever having issued orders of this nature. But as you persist

* Mischief-maker.

in saying this, we will suppose that such words were employed. In the first place, he asked for higher pay without his deserving it. Whilst irritated and annoyed, it is possible that a servant (and even at times one's own children receive rebukes) may be told that his pay would not be increased, and that he might go about his business. Merely for an angry word how can it be admitted as his dismissal? The dismissal of a servant in this country has a regular form, and any person above the rank of a soldier cannot be dismissed by the Colonel or Lieutenant-Colonel. His dismissal must be sealed by his Highness the Sadr Azim, by his Royal Highness the Ameer Nizam (infant son of the Shah), by the Commander-in-chief, by the Secretaries at War, and must be confirmed by the Shah's autograph, and the document must be in writing. At this very time in Tehran, and in all the provinces, the commissions of appointment and the papers of dismissal are to be found issued in this form, and your Excellency can procure many of these and examine them. Therefore, merely for a few angry words, a person cannot consider himself dismissed, and this discussion was terminated with Mr. Thomson, who admitted the point, and dismissed him from the post of Meerza to the Mission in consequence of this just argument, and he therefore appointed Meerza Fezloollah, and announced the nomination to the Persian Ministers. In truth, your Excellency has reopened a question which was before terminated, and has considered it as unsettled. It would have been well if you had made inquiries on this head from Mr. Thomson, so that it would have become known that he admitted the right of this Government, and that the Meerza was a servant of the Persian Government, and had been dismissed from the Mission. Secondly, supposing that the orders of the Sadr Azim were such as have been stated, when His Majesty the Shah is pleased to say that Meerza Hashem Khan is considered by him to be one of his servants, and not to have been discharged, what more can you have to say? According to the rules of propriety and politeness, and what is necessary out of respect to the Royal dignity, you ought not, after learning the wishes and orders of His Majesty, to have done anything contrary to the Royal wishes, but should have, by establishing Meerza Hashem Khan again in the Persian service, maintained order in the internal administration of the country. There is another reason, besides those which have been detailed, and of which you cannot be ignorant, for the Shah desiring to keep Meerza Hashem Khan in his service. With regard to the reports and gossip spread about the town respecting the wife of Meerza Hashem Khan, the Persian Ministers would have said nothing. They maintain silence regarding the truth or falsehood of these rumours, and they have endeavoured, as far as was in their power, to veil the matter, as will clearly appear from their letter of the 15th November;* but of what avail has this been, when the Mission has pushed it with such violence that the Persian Ministers, quite broken-hearted, with great aversion and regret, now perceive that the matter has been already unveiled? Contrary to the principles of Mahometanism, they are therefore unable to accept the conditions stipulated by the Mission.

With regard to Mr. Stevens, the opinion of the Persian Ministers is exactly what they have already stated. If the determination of your Excellency remains the same, there is no compulsion on our part, but I distinctly state to you that diplomatic relations between the Persian Ministers and the Mission will not be continued through him; it will be just the same as if he were not here, unless one of the members of the Mission should remain. The Persian Ministers will make no objection to him, the same as they approve of the Consul-General in Tabreez and the Resident in Bushire, and no difficulty will be made in treating them in accordance with the rules of friendship.

Translated by
(Signed) Ronald F. Thomson.

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* He evidently means the 19th.

Inclosure 7 in No. 56.

The Persian Minister for Foreign Affairs to Mr. Murray.

(Translation.) *November* 26, 1855.

THE memorandum which you wrote in answer to the Shah's autograph and sent to me to be presented to His Majesty, was delivered in accordance with your wishes. After perusing it, His Majesty was pleased to address a second autograph to my address, and I beg to forward to you a copy of it in obedience to the Royal commands. Having been ordered in this autograph to return to you the memorandum, I now inclose it in this note.

Translated by
(Signed) RONALD F. THOMSON.

Inclosure 8 in No. 56.

Autograph Note from the Shah to the Persian Minister for Foreign Affairs.

(Translation.)

Minister for Foreign Affairs, *November* 26, 1855.

WE have read Mr. Murray's letters. There are some insulting expressions to our Prime Minister in his letter, which have given us annoyance. Intimate to him distinctly that all that the Sadr Azim has written or done has been by our Royal commands. We do not require any foreigner to give us information regarding the administration of our own country. Several threatening reports have been spread in town by the Mission, which we could not have believed to have emanated in reality from the Mission, but this letter of Mr. Murray supports these reports. He seems to have the intention to create disturbance and embarrassment in this country. If he has suspended diplomatic relations, and official letters have passed, and his Mehmandar has been furnished at his own demand, then what is the meaning of his renewing the question, and why should he write official letters? If he is deceived, and has anything to say or claims to advance, let him hoist his flag, and after stating his reasons, let him, if he likes, pull it down again.

He writes that the British Ministers have always been desirous to strengthen the independence of this Government, and that he himself entertained the same sentiments. The British Representatives are wonderfully desirous to maintain our independence. They wish to take our power and authority, even over our own particular family, from us. One day they protect and support our uncle, Ferhad Meerza, and estrange him from us, making him disobedient to our commands; and another day they take away one of our servants openly and against our inclination. To-day they demand forcibly our wife's sister. We can't understand why you have all allowed the arguments of the case to escape you. Mr. Murray's object is this, forcibly to take our wife's sister. Our commands are these, that we will not submit to this indignity, and we will not give her. If his Excellency the Sadr Azim should still continue to show moderation and forbearance to the Mission as formerly, we shall be obliged to do what is necessary for giving the preference to the maintenance of our dignity.

As Mr. Murray has altogether exceeded the limits of courtesy, and has outstepped the privileges of the Mission, and that too when diplomatic relations have ceased, it is quite unsuitable that his letter should be registered. You will certainly return it, and not keep it. You are not permitted to discuss the matter any further, or to enter into debates either sound in argument or otherwise. Don't enter into one word of discussion. Now that he has suspended relations, and is about to depart, this kind of discussion can have no other result than to give us greater annoyance. It is obvious that friendship and diplomatic relations with England are not dependent upon the presence of Mr. Murray. We will, in the manner we consider expedient, make known our sincere friendship to the British Government, and a full report of the unsuitable proceedings of Mr. Murray.

Translated by
(Signed) RONALD F. THOMSON.

Inclosure 9 in No. 56.

Mr. Murray to the Persian Minister for Foreign Affairs.

November 27, 1855.

I HAVE received your Excellency's despatch dated 26th November, and the copy of the Royal destkhet therein contained. It seems that your Excellency has either not read or not understood His Majesty's wishes expressed in that letter, or you would not, in direct opposition thereto, have written me a long despatch reopening all the discussion respecting the case of Meerza Hashem Khan. I shall pay more regard to the wishes of His Majesty, and shall therefore decline to make any further reply to the contents of your Excellency's letter.

With respect to the Royal destkhet itself, I have only three observations to make, which I request you to convey to His Majesty the Shah:—

1. The Royal letter inquires "why I, after the suspension of diplomatic relations, renew the question under discussion and write official letters?" My reply is very simple; that I did not wish or intend to renew correspondence or to write any official letter, but as His Majesty the Shah began by writing a letter himself and authorized your Excellency to write another, I thought myself in courtesy bound to reply to both.

2. His Majesty complains that in my reply I had overstepped the privileges of the Mission by making complaints against his Minister; my answer is, that I only followed a course suggested by the Royal letter, which contained most improper terms and unproved accusations against the British Consul holding his commission from the Queen of England in this capital. It was in reply to those observations that I was compelled to make comments on the conduct of the Shah's Prime Minister, but as my letter contained nothing disrespectful to His Majesty, I return it to you again, and I will not receive it back unless the Royal letter which occasioned it is likewise withdrawn.

3. His Majesty's last Royal letter contains the following sentence:—"Mr. Murray's object is this, forcibly to take our wife's sister." As these words show, but too clearly, that the Shah has been misled into putting the Royal seal and sanction to the groundless calumnies already propagated on this subject by his Ministers, it is equally clear to me that no good result can arise from the continuation of this correspondence, and I am only doing what I judge best for the dignity of the Shah and the honour of this Mission, when I inform your Excellency that it is not my intention to receive or reply to any further official letters whatsoever connected with this discussion.

Translated into Persian by
(Signed) RONALD F. THOMSON.

No. 57.

Mr. Murray to the Earl of Clarendon.—(*Received January* 22, 1856.)

My Lord, *Tehran, December* 1, 1855.

THE Persian Government still ostensibly hold out, but in a few days I expect they will concede my demands. I will send a special courier.

I have, &c.
(Signed) CH. A. MURRAY.

No. 58.

Mr. Murray to the Earl of Clarendon.—(*Received January* 22, 1856.)

(Extract.) *Tehran, December* 3, 1855.

ON reviewing the whole of the discussion with the Persian Government on the case of Meerza Hashem Khan, it has occurred to me that the only point which admits of a shadow of a doubt is, whether the Meerza at the time of his appointment to a post under this Mission was, or was not, actually in the service and pay of the Persian Government.

The Sadr Azim's letters maintain the affirmative of this proposition as strongly as mine maintain the negative, and Her Majesty's Government will judge on which side the weight of argument preponderates. As the Sadr's despatches repeatedly state that the Meerza is an officer in the Military Department, and receiving pay as such, I have thought it proper to make further inquiry on the subject, the result of which completely verifies what I have before written to your Lordship on this head, on the authority of the Meerza himself, namely, that he does not hold, and never did hold, any military rank, office, grade, or pay whatsoever. The pittance of pension which was allotted to him, amounting to about 95*l.* a-year, may, indeed, have been charged on the books of the War Department; but that proves nothing, as it is the custom of the Persian Government to charge salaries and pensions on any fund which they find convenient. For instance, in the case of a British subject here who has an annual pension from the Persian Government (Syed Abdullah), last year the payment of his pension was charged on the books of the Government of Ispahan, and this year it is charged on those of the Government at Kermanshah, though he resides in Tehran, and has no relation whatever with either of those places.

Moreover, I may add, that the enjoyment of such a pension without actual service rendered, or duties to be performed, has never in Persia been held incompatible with service under foreign Missions. When Mr. Stevens was Consul at Tabreez, he had a Meerza in the Consulate who was in the receipt of a pension or salary precisely similar to that of Meerza Hashem Khan; for some cause or other the Tabreez Government stopped its payment; Mr. Stevens complained to Colonel Sheil, who had a discussion on the subject with the Persian Government, the result of which was that the Tabreez Government was ordered to pay up the arrears and continue the annual payment, although the Meerza remained in the service of the Consulate. I am informed that there are one or two persons now in the employment of the Russian Consulate at Tabreez in the receipt of similar pensions from the Persian Government.

I have thought it my duty to explain these matters to your Lordship in detail, as a distorted statement of the case will probably have been sent home by the Persian Government.

No. 59.

Mr. Murray to the Earl of Clarendon.—(*Received January* 22, 1856.)

My Lord, *Tehran, December* 4, 1855.

I HAVE the honour to inclose for your Lordship's information, a translation of a paragraph which appeared in last week's "Tehran Gazette," regarding the suspension of relations between this Mission and the Persian Government.

The original paper will also be transmitted to your Lordship by this courier.

I have, &c.

(Signed) CH. A. MURRAY.

Inclosure in No. 59.

Translation of a Paragraph in the "Tehran Gazette" of 18 Rebbi-ul-evvel, 1272 (November 29, 1855).

THE Persian Ministers express, for the information of the public, their concern and regret at the suspension of relations which has within the last few days occurred between the Persian Government and the British Mission. But this fact they wish to impress upon everybody, both in this country and abroad, that this occurrence—which in consequence of the perplexing and dangerous demands unjustly made upon this Government by his Excellency Mr. Murray, the British Minister Plenipotentiary, obliged them to have recourse to a suspension of relations—will not diminish the sincere friendship existing between the Persian and British Governments, and will not in any way whatsoever disturb the neutrality of the Persian Government. The Persian Government adheres to its neutrality.

The Envoys of friendly States residing at this Court are informed of all that takes place, and are aware that no breach of neutrality has occurred or will occur.

No. 60.

Mr. Murray to the Earl of Clarendon.—(Received January 22, 1856.)

(Extract.) *Ken, December 6, 1855.*

IN my despatch of the 28th of November I had the honour of giving to your Lordship an account of all the discussion that had taken place with the Persian Government respecting the suspension of diplomatic relations up to that date. As they persisted in refusing to concede the satisfaction which I demanded, I withdrew the Mission yesterday from Tehran, agreeably to the notice that I had given, and entered upon the long journey which is to take us to the Turkish frontier.

The satisfaction that I demanded as the condition of resuming diplomatic relations and rehoisting the flag was as follows:—

1. Meerza Hashem Khan's wife to be released and restored to her husband, and he himself to be recognized as in the employment of the Mission.

2. The Sadr Azim to visit me at the Mission to apologise for the offensive despatch (inclosure in my despatch of the 21st of November), and to withdraw it; as also to retract whatever charges he had made either here or in writing to foreign Governments calumniating myself and the Mission in respect to improper relations with Meerza Hashem Khan's wife.

3. One of three high officers whom I named to call at the Mission on the part of the Shah to apologise for that most offensive sentence contained in the Royal autograph letter (Inclosure No. 8 in my despatch of the 28th of November), and to withdraw the letter itself.

4. As the Moollahs have been induced by the Sadr Azim to affix the seals of many of them to a document containing similar charges against myself and the Mission, directly tending to bring the Mission and Her Majesty's Government into contempt and odium among the Persian people, the chiefs of that body to call at the Mission to express to me their utter disbelief of the above-named calumnies, and to give me their assurance that they would contradict them wheresoever they might hear them repeated.

I think that your Lordship will admit that considering the repeated and unjustifiable insults that have been offered to myself and the Mission in this matter, and the obstinate pertinacity with which they have been maintained, it would have been impossible for me to have rehoisted the flag with honour, with a less amount of reparation than is herein stated; and I warned the Persian Government that if by refusing it they compelled me to leave Tehran, I would then no longer be bound by the same terms, but should place the matter in the

hands of Her Majesty's Government, who would decide what further reparation might be necessary for the vindication of the honour of their Representative and of their flag.

I may mention, that yesterday they were prepared to add one crowning insult to those which they have already offered. It is the custom here, when a foreign Minister arrives or departs, that he is attended for some distance out of the town by all persons directly or indirectly connected with his Mission, as well as by the members of other Missions. The Persian Government supposing that, agreeably to this custom, Meerza Hashem Khan would yesterday form a part of my exit suite, posted a certain number of Government ferrashes in the Bazaar and at the gate through which I had to pass, with orders to seize him before my eyes and carry him off. I received intimation of this project, and had it been my object to excite the indignation of Her Majesty's Government by proving to them the wishes and intention of the Persian Government to carry its insults to the degree of outrage, I had only to allow the Meerza to take his place yesterday among the other employés of the Mission, and the object would have been attained; but when I reflected on the number of persons in my cortége, and that some of them, especially among the Gholams, would not allow one of my suite to be dragged off his horse without repelling violence by violence, I thought that we might be involved in a very disagreeable and undignified street-broil, and that blood would probably be shed; so I thought it more advisable to order the Meerza to remain quietly in the Mission.

If the Government choose to use force to drag him from thence, they may do so; and that insult to Her Majesty's Government will be as flagrant, perhaps more so, than if they had seized him when riding in my suite.

No. 61.

Lord Stratford de Redcliffe to the Earl of Clarendon.—(*Received January* 29.)

My Lord, *Constantinople, January* 12, 1853.

WITH reference to my despatch of the 3rd instant, I have the honour to forward herewith a translation of an instruction of the Prime Minister of Persia to the Shah's Chargé d'Affaires at Constantinople. The translation was made by the Honourable Percy Smythe, and, in my estimation, does much credit to that gentleman.

I have, &c.
(Signed) STRATFORD DE REDCLIFFE.

Inclosure in No. 61.

The Persian Prime Minister to the Persian Chargé d'Affaires at Constantinople.

(Translation). 18 *Rebi-ul-evvel,* 1272. (*November* 29, 1855.)

YOU have doubtless received my former instruction relative to the conduct of Mr. Murray, the British Representative, and have, in obedience to the directions therein contained, brought the subject fully under the notice of his Excellency the British Ambassador at Constantinople, who is in reality and in the firm conviction of the Government of this country the sincere well-wisher of Persia, and who, deeply acquainted with the springs of affairs, is aware of the degree in which the Persian Government and people are convinced of the friendship of Great Britain towards them. You have also, no doubt, as you were requested, impressed upon his Excellency this point, that the conviction entertained by him that upon the arrival of Mr. Murray in Persia, affairs would take an amicable turn, and no cause of interruption of friendly relations would in future be given to the Persian Government, is directly contradicted by the result. Now, indeed, there is occasion for us to say, "Praise be to God for the first state

of things." Indeed, it amounts to this, that Colonel Sheil, for his part, stands separately; that his successor, Mr. Thomson, though hard and unyielding, and though in the time of his remaining in charge he vexed us with unfounded and useless affairs like that of Hajee Abdul Kerim and others, and changed the friendly relations subsisting between the two countries in a manner little to be anticipated by this Government, and, in short, conducted himself in such a manner that I had to instruct you to trouble his Excellency the Ambassador with the particulars, yet he never brought affairs to such a pitch as not to leave the path clear for ultimate accommodation. The present Minister, however, raises his hand as one who had never been connected with foreign affairs, and had never recognised the preservation of friendship between the two nations: heedless of the efforts and trouble undergone by England for the maintenance of that friendship, he persevered in a course which no man of sense would ever adopt, more especially in the face of the turn which events have recently taken, and the consequent change with which the policy of nations is affected.

The Persian Government, after all the hardness which they sustained at the hands of Mr. Thomson, heard with favourable anticipation that a new Minister had been appointed to this Court, and entertained the idea that the British Government, appreciating the importance of confirming its friendship with us, and that Mr. Murray, enjoying its confidence, was in possession of instructions and authority to act and come to some resolution with that view and to mutual national advantage. These anticipations were confirmed by certain statements relative to Mr. Murray's appointment in the European newspapers, so that we expected his arrival here with the greatest satisfaction. After some expectation we received the news of his arrival on the frontier, and at once appointed Mustafa Khan, one of the most distinguished noblemen of this country, to take charge of him as Mehmandar with every possible preparation and honour, the details of which are doubtless known to the British Government as well as to his Excellency the Ambassador. On his arrival at Tehran he repeatedly expressed his satisfaction at this treatment both to the Shah and his Ministers, and nobles; in fact, he once said, "I had heard before my arrival in Persia that the men of Iran were ignorant of the proprieties of ceremony and society, and that their reputation on that score was quite unfounded, but I think they are better informed on those points than any other people, nor have I ever passed so pleasant a time as since my arrival in Persia, or heard of another Minister being so well treated elsewhere."

We constantly expected some proposition from the Minister for discussion, that we might put our desires into practice, but he made no advances. Perhaps, thought we, he is waiting for the arrival of the French Minister, England and France being allies, and his object may be to confer previously with that gentleman. Yet he, too, arrived; time passed, and brought no result; and the affairs in which the British Minister was engaged were as worthless as those carried on by his predecessors, and the trouble and vexation caused us by them far greater. The first arrow shot from his quiver was the business of Ferhad Meerza, he having reopened that question, which annoyed us much, as did also the next one, relative to the claim of one Sadik, ferrash; and that was succeeded by the affair of André, the tailor, so that he never left us free from bitterness and trouble; then came the story of the Embassy Gholam, who had left the service of the Shah's mother; in fact, it would be necessary that you should read the whole correspondence for you to understand the details of this last affair. Every day we had a troublesome affair of the Minister's with which to occupy ourselves, to the detriment of public business, as regarded internal affairs. We had hoped that even if the Minister did not come forward with any proposition for consolidating the friendship of the two countries, he would at least abstain from anything to cause their collision, but now he has raised the question of Meerza Hashem Khan, the particulars of which are as follows:—

The Khan is son of the late Meerza, Mahomed Raheem Khan, and nephew, on the sister's side, to Ismail Khan. He was brought up in the harem of His late Majesty, as a page, and accompanied the present Shah to and from Azerbijan. His first accession of fortune was the receipt of 200 tomauns yearly, as Gholam pish-khidmet.* He afterwards requested to be admitted into the Nizam,† or public

* Confidential body-guards of the Sultan.

† Regular army.

service, was accepted, and placed in the Academy of Public Instruction (Dar ul Funoon). After some time, he accompanied the Royal cortége to the summer quarters, as usual, during the time that Mr. Thomson was Chargé d'Affaires. One day I saw a letter which had arrived from that gentleman, stating that he had made Hashem Khan First Moonshee, or Native Secretary, to the Mission. On being acquainted with this circumstance, as it was entirely at variance with Persian regulations that a born and salaried servant of our Government should be taken from that service and go elsewhere to obtain service, and as, moreover, such conduct might form a precedent for anybody else to do the same, we lost no time in informing Mr. Thomson that we considered the Khan a real servant of the Persian Government, and viewed him as a deserter from that Government, who had taken sanctuary in the Embassy; that therefore we could not possibly recognise him as a servant of the Embassy, and we begged to decline accepting any official document in his writing. After much resistance on the part of Mr. Thomson, and much exchange of communication upon this profitless business, conducted, on his part, with so much hardness as to occasion us much annoyance, he acknowledged the irregularity of the proceeding and the groundlessness of his opposition to us, and, with justice, yielded the point that the Khan should have no employment as Moonshee; he accordingly replaced him in that post by Meerza Fezloollah, brother of the late Meerza Hussein Koolee, a former Secretary to the Mission, and he notified his appointment officially. We accepted the letter containing the above announcement, and recognised the appointment. Fezloollah entered upon and discharged his duties until his dismissal on account of some opposition which he made to the Mission, when he was replaced by the present Moonshee, Suleiman Khan, the Affghan. When Fezloollah entered upon his post, Mr. Thomson turned Hashem Khan out of the tent which had been pitched in the summer camp for the First Moonshee, and placed the former as its occupant.

The Persian Government now demanded of Mr. Thomson that Hashem Khan should be sent out of the Mission, in order that he might return to his former service. To this Mr. Thomson replied, by a request, that a man might be sent to reassure the Khan, on account of his safety, and conduct him from the Mission, or that he might be allowed to send him, accompanied by a member of the Mission, to resume his service, he being reassured and satisfied. We could not accept this request, having so frequently experienced and been grieved by the interference of British Agents in our internal affairs, such as the case of Meer Ali Khan, Khan Baba, Khan Khonsari, and Ferhad Meerza; and I told Mr. Thomson that the Khan must leave the Mission without its intervention, when he would be well and kindly treated; precisely as in the cases of Hussein Khan, the Nizam-ud-dowleh, of Abbas Koolee Khan, Larijani, of Koocheck Khan, and others, who, without reason, took sanctuary in the Mission, and left it without its intervention, beyond a friendly verbal request from Colonel Sheil that they might be kindly treated; they experienced the kindest treatment, not only then, but after Colonel Sheil's departure, and when they might have been exposed to enmity, in consequence of our engagement to treat them well. However, Meerza Hashem Khan would not leave the Mission, and Mr. Thomson also called upon me, before the arrival of Mr. Murray, and said, "Although it is to my discredit, yet the British Government have approved my conduct in the dismissal of Hashem Khan, and I am grateful for their satisfaction." Although not customary or proper that the Mission should resume the matter from the beginning, and reopen the question, yet after the present Minister arrived, he determined, I know not upon what grounds, to continue the protection of the Mission to the Khan; during all this while we were endeavouring to put the latter at ease, and induce him to come out, but he declined doing so.

Meerza Hashem has a wife, who married him after many other husbands, and who happened to have a doubtful reputation in public, yet she was the daughter of the late Prince Ahmed Ali Meerza, and sister to the principal lady of the Shah's harem. When Meerza Hashem Khan was Under Secretary at the Embassy, his wife also showed a preference for that neighbourhood; and from this, scandalous reports, the mention of which would be disgraceful to our Government and people, grew current among the people of Tehran, inside and outside. The Ministers, in consequence, found themselves under an obligation (to take notice of it), and addressed a circular letter to the foreign Representatives in Tehran, couched in the most veiled and decorous terms, in the hopes of

awakening the attention of the members of the British Mission to this point, and putting them on their guard against the future possibility of tearing the curtain of sanctity by which the connections of the Imperial harem are veiled. This made no impression on the tastes of the Mission, who not only acted as before, but gave Meerza Hashem Khan authority to bring his wife to Gollahe (the summer quarters of the Mission), and place her in a tent among those belonging to the Mission, only separated by one wall. These circumstances at last grew so notorious that the Prince Sultan Hussein Meerza, brother of the lady, and son of the late Ahmed Ali Meerza, being indignant at these reports, proceeded first to the principal ulemah and moollahs of the city, from whom he sought and obtained a fetwah, bearing all their seals, after which he wrote to me, informing me that he had taken his sister, and detained her in his own house as a place of refuge. A copy of the Prince's letter, and of the fetwah, is inclosed for your information. It was upon this that the British Minister came forward in opposition, and the whole of the correspondence that has passed with him is inclosed herewith, according to their date and number, and he has brought affairs to that pass that he has terminated friendly relations, and has lowered the flag of the Mission, the symbol of the continued amity of the two countries; a proceeding with which this Government can never be satisfied, and must always deeply regret. If I were to state the whole of the business in this paper, it would never be contained within limits; I have, therefore, to refer you for the details to the correspondence. In every step taken, and every message sent by us, whether by the intervention of the principal noblemen of the State, or the friendly mediation of M. Bourré, the French Minister, or of Haider Effendi, the Ottoman Chargé d'Affaires, Mr. Murray's conduct was that of an Agent specially appointed to embroil the two countries, so little moderation did he show, and with such increased force did he insist on his proposition; so much so, that when we, at the instance of M. Bourré, addressed him a letter, giving him unquestionable satisfaction, and revoking our last previous letter, he would not accept the letter of satisfaction, but sent it back again. These particulars are fully known to the French and Ottoman Representatives, as are also all the circumstances, and I also send this last letter for your own information. The object of sending you all this amount of correspondence is that you should be thoroughly acquainted with the affair, and should call, immediately upon its receipt, upon the French and Austrian Ministers, and most especially upon his Excellency the British Ambassador, to whom you will remit the short letter which I have addressed to him, and, further, put into his hands copies of the whole correspondence which has passed from the beginning to the end. You will state that the Persian Government is surprised at the conduct of an Agent of the British Government: at the present moment, when it is the object of every State to cement and increase its friendship with other States, upon what considerations do your Agents alienate from their Government its old and faithful friend? The English Government has been and is always desirous of witnessing a strong and settled order of things in this country, and they make use of language, which is occasionally heard, to the effect that we are not reckoned among the number of "civilized" nations. Now when the Agents of Britain might be introducing what they are convinced to be the benefits of civilization into Persia, and guiding and instructing her people in that path, why and upon what considerations do they now seek to disgust the Persian Government with civilization and force them back in the contrary direction? The accusation brought at the beginning of the war against Russia by the nations of Europe was this, that Russia was as yet imperfectly civilized, and was desirous of pursuing a course of war and bloodshed; but against the Government of Persia, which has always maintained the most perfect observance of its previous friendship with each State, and the most complete respect for the principle of civilization, what accusation can lie?

The Ministers of this country endeavoured as long as it was in their power to accommodate and arrange matters with Mr. Murray, and made the utmost exertions; but in the same proportion that we evinced a conciliatory spirit, the hardness of his terms increased. Finally, under the mediation of the French Minister and the Ottoman Chargé d'Affaires, we sent him a message to the following effect: That if Meerza Hashem Khan is so disposed, he may remain in Tehran, and a bill for 400 tomauns, being the amount of two years' salary,

lies in his favour at the Treasury; although he has been for two years in sanctuary at the Mission, and the Government have been deprived of his services, yet taking the request of the Mission into consideration, the money will be given him, together with an additional sum of 300 tomauns, on account of debts, losses, &c., incurred by him, and he will resume his former service; I also will write him a letter bearing my seal, and recording my promise that he shall incur no harm or injury, in order that his mind may be set at ease; and after he has come out, he will promise and engage on his part to keep his wife safe, and not take her to unsuitable places, or leave her there, and also to restrain her from going there of her own accord; upon which terms his wife will be surrendered to him. Moreover, if he feel so disposed, he may repair and be employed in service in any province of Persia out of Tehran, with the exception of Tabreez and Shiraz; he will in that case be promoted, and receive 100 tomauns additional: an instruction will also be addressed to the Governor of the province in which he may be, to pay him 200 tomauns a-year out of his own funds—so that he will get 500 tomauns a-year; while in the event of his choosing to live out of Tehran, his wife will be surrendered to him unconditionally, so that he may take her with him. But if, however, he remains in Tehran, he cannot be promoted, nor his salary increased, for such a proceeding might form a precedent; other public servants might entertain the delusion of moving off to the Mission, in the hopes of obtaining promotion and increase of pay, and a cause of mutual bitterness and ill-will might be thereby generated between this Government and the Mission.

The Minister was not satisfied with the above arrangements, and broke off his relations. The propositions which he himself made were, in the eyes of the people of this country, so onerous, that if the Government were to entertain the idea of admitting and accepting them, it would endanger the independent authority and security of this State, and compromise the safety in life and property of its foreign guests. His principal proposition was this, that the wife of Meerza Hashem Khan should, in spite of the various details and reports (about her), be they true or be they false, in spite of all the information relative to her collected by the Ulema, and of the fetwahs, and testimony, as written and sealed by them, be surrendered to her husband, under the authority of the Ministers, to be by him taken to a house close to the dwelling of the Mission. Considering that the history of the Russian Minister Greybayedoff is yet fresh, and its painful circumstances, the shame and dishonour of which to Persia has not yet been obliterated before the nations of Europe and the countries of the whole world, are ever before the eyes of this Government; and if that amount of bitter feeling was then roused on account of one Georgian girl, would not those feelings be much aggravated on behalf of the present lady, who is nearly connected with the Royal harem, and who has ties of relationship with a powerful tribe or clan, like the Kajjars? Would not the shame be everlasting, and the bitterness affect the authority of the Sovereign?

The Persian Government were unable to accept Mr. Murray's terms; and, under the necessity and compulsion of the case, and with the utmost sorrow and profoundest regret at the cessation of relations by that gentleman, remained silent. In point of fact, it does not lie against Mr. Murray as a matter of so great blame that he, newly arrived in Persia, should be imperfectly acquainted with the customs of that people, and with the importance with which they view matters of decorum and of religion; but that the people who surround him, and especially Mr. Stevens, should have led him into this course, is eminently matter of reprobation, for they who thus urge him are well acquainted with Persian customs. This is the same Mr. Stevens whose conduct when at Tabreez is well known, and has often been made the subject of complaints to the English Government, sent by us immediately and without intervention, as the Ambassador at Constantinople is, doubtless, not unaware; and he had hardly arrived at the capital when he did what he has done. When was it ever known that political questions, which have nothing to do with the transaction of Consular business, should be brought forward under the notice of Consuls? This Mr. Murray has appointed Mr. Stevens as his own Vizier, and with him throws political affairs into confusion.

The result of all this is, that you are instructed to make his Excellency the British Ambassador informed of the whole circumstances from beginning to

end, and to request him to send copies of the whole correspondence to the British Government, in order that they may be fully acquainted with the conduct of their Minister, and the dependents of the Mission in Persia, and may, in the interest of the friendship of the two countries, adopt some decision to obviate the possibility of such occurrences henceforward, and to prevent the interference of the British Mission in the internal affairs of this country.

No. 62.

Mr. Murray to the Earl of Clarendon.—(*Received February* 15.)

My Lord, *Tabreez, January 5*, 1856.

THE Mehmandar in attendance upon me having, in course of conversation, intimated that the greatest obstacle to a reconciliation between myself and the Persian Government was, my insisting upon certain of the Mooshtehids coming in person to apologise at the Mission, I have been induced to modify my terms, as contained in the accompanying inclosure. I have no doubt that the Persian Ministers will consider any alteration a concession; but I think your Lordship will agree with me, that a written apology, sealed by all the offending Moollahs and Mooshtehids, and delivered by their Chief, the Imaum-o'-Jooma, in person, will prove as complete a satisfaction, if not more so, than the mode of apology prescribed in the first instance.

I have, &c.
(Signed) CH. A. MURRAY.

Inclosure 1 in No. 62.

Mr. Murray to the Mehmandar.

January 2, 1856.

AS you have expressed to me your belief that the Persian Government is disposed towards a reconciliation with this Mission, and to accede to the demands which I have made for reparation for the injuries and calumnies of which I have had reason to complain, I inclose, for your information, a copy of those demands* as they were communicated to the Persian Government at Tehran, and I now add one or two modifications which subsequent events have led me to make.

With respect to demand No. 3, I have learnt, since I left Tehran, that a third destkhet of the Shah, though not sent to me, was communicated to the Russian, French, and Ottoman Missions, and that it contained expressions concerning myself, in the highest degree offensive and unbecoming. As it would be impossible for me ever to resume friendly relations with the Persian Court while this destkhet remains unretracted, I must demand that the same officer appointed by the Shah to retract the destkhet of which I before complained, should also bring with him a letter sealed by the Sadr Azim, stating, in the clearest terms, that His Majesty entirely withdrew and retracted all the offensive expressions contained in the last destkhet, and wished me to consider it as never having been written; a copy of that letter to be sent by the Persian Government to the three Missions to whom the destkhet itself had been communicated.

With regard to the demand No. 4, you have explained to me that, on religious grounds, some of the Mooshtehids and Moollahs might decline to come in person to the British Mission, and that my insisting on that demand might cause insuperable difficulties, such as might impede all measures of

* Enumerated in despatch of December 6, 1855.

reconciliation. Although I have pointed out to you the obvious truth that if Mooshtehids and Moollahs will, either of their own accord or at the instigation of others, put their seals to calumnies and falsehoods, they must also, like other men, be compelled to make apology and retractation; nevertheless, in order to show you that I personally have no wish to throw obstacles in the way of a fair and proper reconciliation, I am willing so far to modify my demand No. 4, as to agree that if the Imaum-o'-Jooma, accompanied by one or two of the Moollahs or Mooshtehids selected by the Persian Government, calls in person at the Mission and destroys, in my presence, the istishhad nameh of which I complain, and leaves in the Mission a paper expressing the matter contained in my Inclosure No. 2, bearing the seals of all the Mooshtehids and Moollahs who had signed the istishhad nameh, I am content to accept this arrangement in lieu of my demand No. 4, as it originally stood.

I remain, &c.

(Signed) CH. A. MURRAY.

Translated into Persian by

(Signed) RONALD F. THOMSON.

Inclosure 2 in No. 62.

Draft of Document to be given in to the Mission on the part of the Mooshtehids and Moollahs.

WE, the Mooshtehids and Moollahs whose seals are hereunto appended, and who, in the month of Rebiul-evvel, 1272, signed at Tehran an istishhad nameh containing various charges and accusations against Her Britannic Majesty's Minister and Mission, hereby declare that the above-named charges and accusations were made under error and false information, and we are convinced that they were entirely without truth or foundation, for which reason we have requested the Imaum-o'-Jooma to visit the British Minister, at the Mission-house, and there, in his Excellency's presence, to destroy the above-named istishhad nameh, and to express our regret that it was written; also to leave with his Excellency this document, to which we have affixed our seals.

Translated into Persian by

(Signed) RONALD F. THOMSON.

No. 63.

Mr. Murray to the Earl of Clarendon.—(Received February 15.)

(Extract.) *Tabreez, January 8, 1856.*

I HAVE the honour to inform your Lordship, that according to the most recent intelligence from Tehran, the Persian Government is making active preparations for repelling any attack which the British or Indian Government may make on the Southern Provinces.

If I am rightly informed, while the Shah was at Jajrood (whither His Majesty had gone for the ostensible purpose of hunting), circulars were addressed to the Governors of Fars, Kerman, Yezd, Kermanshah, and Arabistan, ordering them to keep up a constant interchange of communication, and to be ready to assist each other in case of need.

The latest advices from Khorassan state that Prince Mahomed Youssuf, present Ruler of Herat, had requested the Persian authorities at Meshed to delay for a fortnight any force which they might be about to send to his assistance, as he hoped to be able to arrange matters amicably with Dost Mahomed Khan. This request arrived very opportunely, as I am told that at the time of its reaching Meshed, the Persian troops there were clamorous for their pay, and not disposed to march till they received it. The Commander of the expedi-

tion, however, Sultan Moorad Meerza, had orders from Tehran to push forward with all speed; notwithstanding these instructions, I am of opinion that the fate of Herat will be decided by a compromise or a battle long before a single Persian regiment arrives in sight of the town.

No. 64.

Mr. Murray to the Earl of Clarendon.—(*Received February* 15.)

My Lord, *Tabreez, January* 8, 1856.

I HAVE the honour to inclose, for your Lordship's information, copy of a despatch which I have addressed to Mr. Consul Stevens, in consequence of the Kaimakam having stated that the Persian Government were in possession of a letter from Her Majesty's Mission to Dost Mahomed Khan, which had been intercepted by Prince Mahomed Youssuf, the Ruler of Herat, and which proved that the British Mission had broken faith with the Persian Government in respect to Herat.

I have, &c.
(Signed) CH. A. MURRAY.

Inclosure in No. 64.

Mr. Murray to Consul Stevens.

(Extract.) *Tabreez, December* 31, 1855.

IN a despatch addressed to me by Mr. Consul Abbott on the 22nd instant, relating to a conversation which he had just held with the Kaimakam, in which the latter had expressed a hope and expectation that the differences now existing between the Persian Government and Her Britannic Majesty's Mission might be amicably arranged, there occurs the following passage:—

"He (the Kaimakam) added afterwards, that since sending me the above message, he had learnt that affairs had recently become more complicated and difficult in consequence of what had occurred regarding Herat; that letters from Her Majesty's Mission to Dost Mahomed Khan had been intercepted by Mahomed Youssuf Meerza, Governor of Herat, in which it was apparent that the British Mission had broken its faith with the Persian Government, in respect of an arrangement made four years since respecting Herat; that the Sadr Azim had appealed to the French Minister on the subject, who had sided with him."

With reference to the statement contained in this passage, I have to instruct you to inform the Minister for Foreign Affairs that, like all the other charges which the Persian Government has lately adduced against Her Britannic Majesty's Mission, it has not even a shadow of foundation in truth: neither have I, nor has my predecessor, Mr. Thomson, as he himself assures me, ever written one single note or letter, private or official, to Dost Mahomed Khan; and so far from encouraging or inviting him to march against Herat, I have, for the last two or three months, believed him to be dead, according to a report which reached me from Meshed, which I transmitted to Her Majesty's Government. You are entitled to demand that the Minister for Foreign Affairs should show you this pretended intercepted letter, in order that you may, if possible, discover the author of the forgery. If he declines to do so, I can only believe that the whole story has been fabricated by the Persian Government in order to vilify and calumniate the British Mission, and to endeavour to produce a misunderstanding between

it and the French Mission. It will not be amiss that you convey a warning to the Minister for Foreign Affairs, that if the Persian Government endeavour to make this forged letter, or this groundless falsehood, a pretext for moving troops on Herat, or interfering in the affairs of Affghanistan, in a manner contrary to the agreement entered into with Her Majesty's Government, they will seriously aggravate the difficulties that have already arisen from their late conduct towards this Mission, and will oblige the British Government to have recourse to measures calculated to enforce a respect for diplomatic engagements.

You will communicate the purport of this despatch to the Foreign Minister.

No. 65.

Consul Stevens to the Earl of Clarendon.—(*Received February* 15, 1856.)

(Extract.) *Tehran, December* 31, 1855.

I HAVE the honour to inclose for your Lordship's information copies of the following despatches recently addressed by me, viz:—

1. December 21.—To the Indian Government, inclosing translation of a Persian manifesto, announcing a military expedition to Herat.

2. December 29.—To Mr. Murray, with remarks on the above document.

3. December 23.—To the Indian Government, announcing the departure of Sultan Moorad Meerza for Herat, and conveying information on the military forces in Khorassan and Fars.

4. December 29.—To Mr. Murray, reporting a communication made by the Persian Government to the Foreign Ministers in Tehran, of the pretended discovery of a secret correspondence between Mr. Thomson and Syed Mahomed Khan, late Ruler of Herat.

Inclosure 1 in No. 65.

Consul Stevens to the Secretary to the Government of India.

(Extract.) *Tehran, December* 21, 1855.

IN transmitting herewith, for the information of the Right Honourable the Governor-General of India, the "Tehran Gazette" of yesterday's date, containing a manifesto (translation inclosed) of the Persian Government, declaring its intention to occupy Herat on the ground of that place being menaced by Dost Mahomed Khan, I have the honour to draw his Lordship's notice to the passages conveying offensive insinuations against the British Government, for nobody in Tehran entertains the least doubt about the British Government being the "neighbour" alluded to as "instigating and supporting" Dost Mahomed Khan.

Inclosure 2 in No. 65.

Manifesto.

(Translation.)

ACCORDING to authentic intelligence which has reached the Persian Government from Khorassan, the Ameer Dost Mahomed Khan has dared, at the instigation and with the support of his neighbours, to send troops to

Candahar and to occupy it: he intends from that place to march upon Herat. The Persian Government, desiring to prevent Herat from falling into the hands of the Governments of Cabul, Candahar, or others, and also to preserve the province of Khorassan, considers it necessary to take Herat and retain it.

The movement of Dost Mahomed Khan, who is the aggressor, has come to the knowledge of the Persian Government; undoubtedly it is not on his own impulse that he is acting contrary to the wishes of this Government, and that he has undertaken such a step, he who has invariably shown good intentions and submission (to the Persian Government). Ostensibly he wants to seize Herat, but in reality it is to introduce disturbances into Khorassan, even Beloochistan, Kirman, and the provinces.*

The Persian Government cannot tolerate such disorders on its territory. It is, therefore, necessary, for the purpose of securing tranquillity in its provinces, and on its frontiers, to dispatch well-equipped troops to Herat to save the place from falling into the hands of Dost Mahomed Khan; to maintain tranquillity in that country, maintain the integrity of its Government (Herat), and prevent it from falling into other hands. When this result shall be obtained, the Persian Government will consider in what further manner it should act. However, this decision on the part of the Persian Government will in no way change its previous determination of remaining neutral, and has no connection with the circumstances existing between the belligerent Powers (the Western Powers and Russia). The Persian Government desire, as they have hitherto done, to observe neutrality.

Inclosure 3 in No. 65.

Consul Stevens to Mr. Murray.

(Extract.) *Tehran, December* 29, 1855.

I HAVE the honour to inclose, for your Excellency's information, copies of three despatches, addressed by me to the Indian Government, and to inform you, with reference to the Inclosure No. 2, that there exists a curious diversity of opinion here on the precise meaning of the Persian Manifesto regarding the expedition to Herat, as it was published in the "Tehran Gazette."

My own imperfect knowledge of the language disables me from offering any opinion on the subject. All agree in one point, that it is couched in ambiguous terms. According to some, the Government distinctly declares its intention to occupy and retain Herat; others, that this can only be inferred by the positive announcement of the dispatch of troops to Herat.

Perhaps the intentions of the Persian Government may be best understood from a remark made by the Prime Minister, that if Sultan Moorad Meerza got within the walls of Herat before Dost Mahomed Khan, his, the Sadr's, quarrel with the English would be easily arranged, as they would be too glad to make advances to the Persian Government, with a view of obtaining the withdrawal of the Persian troops from that fortress.

Inclosure 4 in No. 65.

Consul Stevens to the Secretary to the Government of India.

(Extract.) *Tehran, December* 23, 1855.

IN continuation of the intelligence contained in my despatches of the 12th and 17th instant, addressed to Mr. Murray, I have the honour to

* This is not clear in the original.

report, for the information of the Right Honourable the Governor-General of India, that Prince Sultan Moorad Meerza left Tehran yesterday for the Shah's camp at Jajrood, six hours from the capital, where His Majesty is just now on a hunting expedition. The Prince will proceed direct from the camp to Khorassan and Herat. He has been furnished with 20,000 tomauns, half in cash and half in shawls, and other articles for "khalauts."

The Persian Ministers hope that the appearance of a Persian army on the borders of Affghanistan will produce disturbances in British India.

The Persian Regular Infantry now in the Province of Khorassan amounts to	4,600	Men
Those now on the way, or preparing for the same direction	4,000	„
And Artillerymen, about	400	„
In all	9,000	„

Fully half this number will be required for garrison duty; and casualties inevitable in moving troops in this season will certainly reduce the other half to about 3,500 ill paid, dissatisfied, and badly equipped men, which I consider will be the maximum number of regular forces that may, if they meet with no opposition, reach Herat.

Two thousand men and some artillerymen are also under orders for Fars, where the troops, with this addition, will amount to 3,600 men, and are, it is said, to be placed under the command of Prince Hamza Meerza, the present Governor of Ispahan. His Government considers him a good general. I have known him very intimately for five years, but cannot confirm this opinion.

Inclosure 5 in No. 65.

Consul Stevens to Mr. Murray.

Sir, *Tehran, December* 29, 1855.

THE Persian Government has, I understand, communicated to the foreign Missions in Tehran, the copies of a pretended correspondence between Mr. Thomson and Syed Mahomed Khan, found among the latter's papers after his murder, and in which Mr. Thomson places a crore, or half crore, of tomauns at the chief's disposal, for purposes injurious to the interests of the Persian Government.

Both M. Bourré and Hyder Effendi mentioned this circumstance to me; and I did not hesitate to declare to them that, if any such documents existed, they were probably forged by the Persians to justify their recent manifesto against Herat.

I have, &c.
(Signed) RICH. W. STEVENS.

No. 66.

Lord Stratford de Redcliffe to the Earl of Clarendon.—(Received February 24.)

(Extract.) *Constantinople, February* 18, 1856.

INTELLIGENCE having reached me from Tehran that a document prepared by the Persian Government, signed by numerous Ulemah, and containing a number of false and calumnious charges against the members of Her Majesty's Legation in Persia, had been forwarded to Constantinople, I have

been requested by Mr. Murray to procure a copy of this paper, which he had not himself been able to obtain in Persia, and to transmit it to your Lordship's office without loss of time.

The document, of which I have the honour to inclose a translation herewith, although it contains no direct and specific charges against that gentleman or the members of his Mission, and although, judging from the period of its communication to myself, it must have been written before Mr. Murray had left Tehran, appears, nevertheless, to correspond sufficiently with the paper indicated by that gentleman to warrant its immediate transmission, on my part, for your Lordship's information.

Inclosure in No. 66.

Letter from Hajee Ali Keene, Mooshtehid or Chief Priest of Tehran.

(Translation.)

I BEG to trouble you with the representation of three necessary subjects. The first is this, that such a disturbance took place last night at the back of your petitioner's house, that had it not occurred towards the close of the night, when the people were asleep, a considerable riot might have happened. One of the foreign residents of this city occupies a house in your petitioner's neighbourhood: the name of his service was assumed by a party of rabble who had collected about him, reckless fellows in speech and action. In short, about midnight they seized a woman and were carrying her off, either for themselves or for their authorities in office. The woman cried and screamed, and two well-known respectable merchants went out themselves to rescue her. These rascals, together with a party of official people ("sãhib-mansab") and instructors ("muallim"), fell on the merchants, beat them, and were dragging them home, when one Thaddeus, an Armenian, interfered and obtained their release—one of their men having brought up the watch of the quarter, who gave the fellows a sound thrashing, and drove them away.

My petition, then, is this: How can such disturbances and irregularities (perpetrated against the respectable people of the city, and especially against the honour of Mussulmans) be tolerated? It is clear to all that such people will stop at nothing after this tumultuous conduct. I often hear that their officials are in the habit of carrying off Mussulman women; and my request is, that a remedy for all this be found, especially as regards last night's disturbance, for I can no longer endure or control such irregularities: otherwise I must resign my post, and perhaps quit the city.

No. 67.

Mr. Murray to the Earl of Clarendon.—(Received at Paris, March 2.)

(Extract.) *Tabreez, January* 18, 1856.

I HAVE the honour to inform your Lordship that, a short time ago, a messenger or agent from Herat called upon Mr. Stevens at Tehran, and finding that I had already withdrawn the Mission from that capital, delivered to him three letters addressed to me by several Chiefs of the principal Heratee tribes and factions, translations of which I have the honour to inclose herewith.

There are some remarkable and suspicious circumstances attached to these letters, deserving your Lordship's notice. They bear no date, and although

stated by the messenger to be addressed to me, they bore no superscription whatever; in endeavouring to form an opinion as to their genuineness, I had the fortuitous advantage of the assistance of our second Meerza, who is himself an Affghan, and who is well acquainted with the names, position, and seals of the parties. The genuineness of some of the seals is, in his opinion, questionable, but the last of the series seems to be genuine. If, as I strongly suspect, these letters are either forged or written at the secret instigation of the Persian Government, then it is only a clumsy attempt on their part to entangle me in some correspondence or negotiation with the Affghan Chiefs, by the interception and disclosure of which they might justify their own march upon Herat, and also the falsehoods which they have spread, and are spreading, far and wide, to the effect that Her Majesty's Government and this Mission have violated the agreement entered into with Persia, in respect to the non-interference in the internal affairs of Affghanistan.

Whatever may be the real history of these letters, the only reply that I have given to them is the inclosed letter to Mr. Stevens, of which I send him a Persian translation, which I authorize him to give to the Affghan messenger.

Inclosure 1 in No. 67.

——— Khan and ———Khan to Mr. Murray.

(Translation.)

IN the first place, I pray for your welfare; and secondly, I beg to represent to you that I, your devoted servant, am exceedingly desirous to serve your Government with heart and soul. In this country we have a multitude of followers: thanks be to God, and, by the kindness of your Government, we can command about 10,000 men, horse and foot; and as we knew that your Government desired this country, we seized Syed Mahomed Khan (late Ruler of Herat), and now our eyes are open in expectation, we being ready to serve in any way you may point out. As we had no chief, we brought Prince Mahomed Youssuf and set him over us, but now his intentions are changed, and this is the reason we have sent the bearer to you; so that in any way you are pleased to command we may serve.

——— Khan is the bearer, and whatever he says may be depended upon.

———Khan and ——— Khan to Mr. Murray.

(Translation.)

MAY God always preserve you perfect health. I beg to state that I, your servant, am one of the tribes,* but am at present residing in the city, praying for the prosperity of your Government. Being ourselves in difficulty, and having created for ourselves our present position, if your Government has any favour for us, and will give us any instructions, we are quite able to face them all here. We are in expectation, and if you will silence them there (at Tehran), we are a match for them here. There was a person here who said he was connected with your Government, but we did not feel confident of the truth of what he said. In short, we have sent ——— to you, and whatever he says, you may consider as said by us; and let the Government be informed of the matter, for if they desire it, let them show us favour and feel quite confident in us, for affairs have now taken a very serious turn.

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* Eeliat tribes.

——— *to Mr. Murray.*

(Translation.)

*After Compliments.

I BEG to inform your Excellency that we have taken certain steps, relying upon your assurances that it was for our good; but some persons have now changed their manner of behaving (meaning Prince Mahomed Youssuf), and our affairs do not prosper here. Some of your people are here, but we have not ventured to speak to them about our business. We have, therefore, sent these letters to you to explain the matter. We have been the cause of these proceedings, being the Chiefs of the different tribes; we did it in accordance with the desire of your Government. Now affairs are in confusion here, and if it be the wish of your Government, we can command about 10,000 men; if you show us favour, we can get the better of them all here. One is on his side (Prince Mahomed Youssuf, apparently) and all the others are with us. Be good enough to let us know if you have any request. Every one is devoted to you and your Government, and considering you as their friend, they have sent a messenger to you, so that they may receive answers to their communications, and feel confidence in you, when they will serve your Government. You can determine as you please. As it was requisite, I have written this letter. The bearer will mention to you verbally all other matters, and his word is deserving of credit.

Inclosure 2 in No. 67.

Mr. Murray to Consul Stevens.

(Extract.) *Tabreez, January* 17, 1856.

I HAVE received and read the three letters which were placed in your hands, and which you forwarded to me. They bear the seals of Heratee Chiefs of high rank. You may, therefore, convey to them the following reply to their communication:—

In the first place I must observe, that the letters contain several serious misstatements, which require correction: such, for instance, as "We know your Government desired this country;" also that, "We have taken certain steps relying upon your assurances that it was for our good." Now, it should be known to the Chiefs who sent these letters that I never gave them any assurances, neither have I recommended them to take any steps whatsoever. It is equally incorrect to state that the British Government desires their country. These Chiefs should know that the British Government, some time ago, made an agreement with the Persian Government that neither party should meddle in the internal affairs of Affghanistan. So long as there is peace between Great Britain and Persia, the British Government cannot, and will not, break this agreement; neither will we permit the Persian Government to break it on their side. If they do, they must take the consequences that may follow. What the British Government desires is to see Affghanistan prosperous and independent; we wish to have sincere friendship and extended mutual relations of commerce with the Affghans, and that they should arrange their own affairs of internal government without any interference either on the part of Great Britain or of Persia.

As to the tale of there being now in Herat an English subject connected with our Government, it must be a mere fable; at least I know of no such person.

After I heard that the government of Herat had fallen into the hands of Prince Mahomed Youssuf, who bore the character of courage and ability, I hoped that the affairs of that city and country would improve and prosper in his hands. It seems from these letters that I have been disappointed in this hope, and that all is again intrigue and dissension. I regret this on account of the Affghans themselves; for all history shows that a country, however brave and warlike may be its population, which is divided by internal broils and dissensions, and solicits foreign intervention, is sure to be ruined in the end.

* Autograph of the author.

I repeat what I have before stated, that so long as we are at peace with Persia, we cannot interfere in the internal affairs of Affghanistan; neither will we permit the Persians to do so with impunity.

I send you a translation of this letter.

Translated into Persian by
(Signed) Wm. J. Dickson.

No. 68.

Mr. Murray to the Earl of Clarendon.—(Received at Paris, March 2.)

(Extract.) *Tabreez, January* 22, 1856.

I HAVE the honour to inclose herewith a translation of a paper lately drawn up by the Persian Government, and sent, or about to be sent, to Europe for publication. As the falsehoods and calumnies against Her Majesty's Government and this Mission which it contains are too gross and palpable to be owned or defended, the Persian Government has adopted the clumsy contrivance of circulating this manifesto in the anonymous form of a letter from "Our Own Correspondent," and I am informed that it is to be printed in Constantinople. However the Persian Government may be hereafter induced, by shame or fear, to disclaim the authorship of this scurrilous libel, the evidence, both circumstantial and internal, is so clear as to leave no doubt on the subject. A fortnight before I received it, Mr. Stevens wrote to me from Tehran that the Persian Government was occupied in drawing up such a paper, and that he would endeavour to get me a copy of it. He succeeded in doing so, and, on perusing it, I recognised at once the same falsehoods, the same pretexts, and, in many instances, the very same words that the Sadr Azim has used in his discussions with myself, so as to leave not a shadow of doubt that the paper has been drawn up under his direction. I have divided the translation into paragraphs (which division does not exist in the original), in order that I might add a few marginal notes where they might seem necessary. I have not thought it requisite to call your Lordship's attention to the calumnies alleged against my predecessors—such, for instance, as those concerning Bokhara, Herat, &c., because they refer to matters already familiar to your Lordship, whereas some of the calumnies adduced against myself are an improvement on those which have already been sent to your Lordship in an official form, and emanating from the same quarter.

Inclosure in No. 68.

Paper drawn up by the Persian Ministers for publication in Europe.

(Translation.)

1. FROM intelligence received from Tehran, the capital of Persia, it appears that Mr. Murray, lately accredited to Persia as Minister Plenipotentiary, has broken off relations with the Persian Government, and has struck the British flag, which was the emblem of goodwill. This is the same flag which, from the first day, was hoisted in token of friendship and unanimity; and this is the same friendship on the maintenance of which the English always laid such stress in any matter of great importance which they had to transact. Our correspondent, after carefully examining the information which reached him, and weighing the different points in the various reports at Tehran, has arrived at the conviction that the true state of the case is as described in the following statement:—

2. There can be no doubt that the British Government attached great value to the friendship of Persia, and it is equally clear that they had succeeded in making the Persian Government their sincere well-wishers. Our correspondent is of opinion that these sentiments are still entertained. But all the English authorities in Persia have been actuated in their conduct by personal feelings, and they have not only irritated the people and Government of Persia to such a degree that language cannot be found to express their dislike of the English Government, but they have caused a change in the feelings of the Persian nation. If the Persians considered the English their friends in former days, now, on the contrary, they look upon them as their bitter enemies, and believe that the English have sinister designs upon Persia, and wish to treat her as they would one of the Rajahs of Hindostan, and that all the irregularities which British officers commit in Persia are undertaken under instructions from the British Ministers.

This paragraph is very inconsistent. In the first instance, sentiments of friendship towards the British Government are still entertained by the Persian Government. In the latter part of the paragraph, they look upon us as "their bitter enemies."

The phrase about the Rajahs of Hindostan is a favourite one of the Sadr's, and has been used by him more than once in conversation.

3. Although we are of opinion that the British Government could never sanction such proceedings on the part of their officers, still that Government has, on several occasions, treated the Persian Government in such a manner as to support the idea formed by the Persians. For instance, when "McNeill" broke off relations on the Herat question, although he was in the wrong, and the first improper step, which was at variance with the friendship existing between the two States, was taken by him, and he removed the British Mission from the Persian territory to that of Turkey, the British Government, instead of condemning the proceedings of McNeill, refused to receive in London Hussein Khan, the Adjutant-General, who was dispatched on a mission to England from the Persian Court. Hussein Khan was sent by the Persian Ministers to England for the purpose of proving to the British Ministers the justice of the course pursued by Persia. Why, then, should the British Ministers refuse admission to its dominions to the Ambassador of an ancient kingdom? Could they have put this disgrace on any other country, we ask, or made the resumption of friendly relations dependent upon the pleasure of their Ambassador, McNeill, without listening to the defence and just arguments adduced by the Persian Government? From that day the Persian people lost all faith in the friendship of the British Government; and, up to this time, whatever proceedings were undertaken in Persia by the English authorities, however unjust, the Persian Ministers, although they knew that they were degrading to their country, still gave the preference to the maintenance of friendly relations with England, and reluctantly submitted, knowing how difficult it was, nay, almost impossible, for the Persian Ministers to succeed in showing up the conduct of the English officers to their Government. If they sent an Envoy, the English Government would not receive him, and if they sent letters, no answers would be vouchsafed; what, then, was the necessity for adding to their own humiliation?

4. Secondly, whenever the Persian Ministers found themselves compelled to report the unjust proceedings of the British authorities to the English Government through the medium of a direct communication in writing, no answer was given; or, if a reply was occasionally transmitted, they communicated it to their own Representatives, to be verbally conveyed to the Persian Ministers. We are perfectly amazed to find how much, under such circumstances, the Persian Ministers prized English friendship, for no Government would submit to the discourtesy of being referred for an answer to the verbal communication of the English Representatives, when they had written a direct appeal to the British Ministers in an official form. But a short time has elapsed since the Ameer of Bokhara refused to submit to an affront of this description, and the fate of Stoddart was the result.

5. Thirdly, whenever the British authorities commit an irregular act, and persist in it, they write a garbled account of the matter to their Government, and, after a short period, they come and inform the Persian Ministers verbally that the British Government have approved of their proceedings. This also shows how annoyed the Persian Government must be with that of England.

6. Now we come to the irregular acts of the British authorities. As for McNeill, he made a pretext of the Herat question, and withdrew the British Mission to the Turkish territory; and the British Government, so renowned throughout the world for its justice and for its equity, although undeservedly so in our opinion, siding with its Representative, and approving of his actions, adopted such harsh measures towards Persia, that she was compelled to relin-

quish Herat, a portion of her ancient possessions, and to deprive herself of the means of protecting Persia against the inroads of the Affghans and Toorkomans, by whom she is greatly harassed.

7. Colonel Sheil, too, what harshness he employed during his residence in Persia, for very little matter; every kind of discourtesy and trouble were considered by him as permissible for the Persian Government. The first British Envoy who made the Mission a sanctuary and house of refuge for discontented persons, and mischief-makers, and dangerous characters, was Colonel Sheil. In his time, no one ever saw the Mission without a refugee. His people and scribes used to invite persons to come and take sanctuary, and they instigated others to disobedience. For example, the Elkhanee of Fars and Kooeheek Khan, Doombelee, the Serdar Abbas Koolee Khan, of Tarijan, Hussein Khan, Mizam-ed-Dowleh, Ferhad Meerza, and Khan Batta Khan, of Khonsar, although there was no reason for it, and the Persian Ministers had no idea of harming them, were all invited, one after the other, to seek the asylum of the Mission House; and it was only after a great deal of trouble that the Persian Ministers succeeded in persuading these people to leave the Mission without the intervention of the British authorities.

In enumerating the persons who have on various occasions taken refuge in the British Mission, it is a strange oversight that the Sadr Azim should omit his own name, and should have forgotten that he owes not only his present position but his life to British protection.

8. It was in the time of Colonel Sheil and Colonel Farrant that the Salar, son of the Azef-ed-Dowleh, rebelled in Khorassan, and what protection and support did not Colonel Sheil and Colonel Farrant afford in secret to these rebels against the Shah's Government? It is the belief of our correspondent that large sums of money were expended by them in the hope that the Persian Government might be ruined through the Salar. Indeed, had it not been for the protection given by these two English officers to the Salar, how could he have resisted for such a length of time the Persian troops sent against him? Truly, the Persian Government, notwithstanding that at the time we speak of it had not yet acquired great stability, deserves great credit for the manner in which it terminated that affair.

9. At all events, Yar Mahomed Khan, of Herat, came against the Salar with a large body of Horse, and aided the Persians, performing every service to the Persian Government in the siege of Meshed. He provided horsemen, collected stores, and did everything in his power without hesitation. His presents and letters to the Shah constantly reached Tehran; and, in return, firmans and dresses of honour were sent to him from the Shah, the same as to former Governors of Herat. He coined the money in Herat in the name of the Shah of Persia, and he considered Herat as a portion of the Persian dominions. Our correspondent writes, that his having received and accepted the title of "Zeheer-ood-Dowleh" from the Shah, and the fact that this is known to all the world, are strong proofs that Yar Mahomed Khan considered himself a servant of the Shah, and Governor of Herat on the part of His Majesty. After Yah Mahomed Khan died, his son Syed Mahomed Khan, having been named Governor of Herat in the place of his father by the Shah, and having received his dress of honour, continued to serve like his father, and never made the slightest objection to send offerings to the Shah, to cause the "khootbeh" (prayer) to be made in the Shah's name, or to do all that was necessary as a Governor and loyal servant. His brother, Mahomed Sedeek Khan, was sent by him to Tehran to attend upon and serve the Shah.

10. But Colonel Sheil, when he heard and learned all this, became spiteful, and adopted harsh measures; and every day he had some occupation and work for the Persian Ministers. Finding that his object could not be attained by these means, he wrote something plausible to his Government, and the British Ministers suspended all intercourse with Sheffee Khan, the Persian Chargé d'Affaires in London, and distinctly informed that functionary that until the Persian Ministers settled the affair of Herat with Colonel Sheil, relations would not be resumed with him. In Tehran, Colonel Sheil now "re-opened an old account," and sought to embarrass the Persian Ministers, and at length an agreement was made between them. Although our correspondent was not perfectly acquainted with the terms of this agreement, this much he knew, and it appears to be correct: that on the part of the English authorities, no interference or intercourse whatever was to be held with Herat or the Heratees; that no Englishman was to enter the Herat territory, and the English authorities were not to write one word to the Governor of Herat. But the Persian Government was at liberty to exercise the same amount of interference, and

maintain the same intercourse with Herat which they did in the reign of Fatteh Ali Shah, Mahomed Shah, and, "the commencement of the Government." Offerings to the Shah and letters and agents were to come to and go from Tehran always, and firmans and dresses of honour and agents might be sent to Herat. If any person from without marched with the design of taking Herat, the Persian troops might go and disperse the (invading) force. In short, the Persian Government was only not to take actual territorial possession of Herat, but that Principality was, with Cabul and Candahar, to remain in the hands of their old Rulers, each separately, none molesting his neighbour. And if this agreement was violated by the English Government or its authorities, the agreement was to be null and void, and was to be considered as if it had never been written.

10. After Colonel Sheil left Persia, Mr. Thomson's turn arrived. He soared higher than any of the others, and he acted in such a manner that the like of it has never been seen in the world. For instance, he instigated the Persian Ministers for the purpose of creating confusion, so that the Imaum of Muscat began to produce disorder in an unsuitable manner, as we learned a short time ago in the "Tehran Gazette," where we also read what befell the Imaum's troops in Bender Abbas. On the other hand, he instigated the Khan of Khiva, who came against Merve and Serekhs, in Khorassan, with horsemen and a large force; but his expedition was disastrous, and he lost his life, as was described in a recent number of the "Tehran Gazette." Our correspondent is astonished that a British officer should cause such serious disorders in the capital of Persia, which endanger the very existence of the Persian Government. We have never heard of any breach of friendship having been committed by Persia against the English Government, that the latter should consider it suitable and proper that their authorities should create such disorders in Persia. But the most serious of all Mr. Thomson's proceedings was that he upset the Herat engagement, and commenced dispatching people to and "scattering letters" about Herat. He withdrew Syed Mahomed Khan, an obedient servant of the Persian Government, from his duty; and not satisfied with this, he wrote for an Englishman to come to Herat, who attached himself to Syed Mahomed Khan, and every day stirred up mischief, until he threw the frontiers of Khorassan into disorder, and that province was constantly harrassed by the incursions of the Heratees and Toorkomans. Up to the day of Syed Mahomed Khan's death, when Prince Mahomed Youssuf became Governor, that Englishman was in Herat, and in all likelihood is there yet. If, in reality, the terms of the Herat engagement are such as have been stated to our correspondent, the Persian Government is justified in taking whatever steps she deems advisable with regard to Herat, and in looking upon the engagement as valueless and cancelled; and, in such an event, no objection can be taken that she has broken her engagement.

12. Besides this, Mr. Thomson never relaxed the system of protection, but found hourly occupation for the Persian Ministers. He also protected Ferhad Meerza, and invited him to take sanctuary in the Mission, and he struggled and disputed with the Persian Ministers. In this manner, Hajee Abdul Kerreem, a Candahar merchant, who has resided for thirty or forty years in Persia as a Persian subject, and has a wife and family, having married the daughter of a Persian prince, was taken under protection on the plea that his father was a native of Shirkapore, and that place now belonged to the British Empire; and on this question, he struck the English flag and suspended diplomatic relations. But the extraordinary part of it is, that our correspondent hears that Hajee Abdul Kerreem will not admit of his being a native of Shikarpore: he says he is not an English subject, but a native of Candahar, and that he was and is a dependent of the Persian Government.

This paragraph about Hajee Abdul Kerreem alludes to the fact that he, the Hajee, has lately given in a paper to the Persian Government, renouncing British protection, and declaring that he is a Candaharee.

13. When Mr. Thomson's turn passed, and it came to Mr. Murray's, his proceedings were more "spicy,"* than those of all the rest. We hear strange news; they write from Persia, that when it first became known that Mr. Murray was coming, the Persian Government, looking at the times and the position of all the world, conceived that Mr. Murray might be coming for some important matters, which might be advantageous to the Persian Government as well as to that of England, and they thought that his advent would prove a redress (salve

* "Ba mazaa."

for all the troubles they had undergone with former Representatives. This was the reason that they anxiously expected his arrival, and when he reached the frontier, they sent one of the principal servants of the Government, a man of very high birth, to act as his Mehmandar from the boundary. He was escorted with every honour to Tehran; every endeavour was made to gratify him, and never for a moment was it neglected to show him respect. Every day they were in expectation as to when he would open the discussion. After a period of expectation, all at once they perceived that Mr. Murray, too, imitated his predecessors. The first arrow which left his quiver, was the affair of Ferhad Meerza, whom he invited a second time to the Mission, and commenced a correspondence about him in such a way, that every one gave the preference to the conduct of Mr. Thomson (although his proceedings were altogether unjust and injudicious) compared to that of Mr. Murray. When he understood that the affair of Ferhad Meerza was too unjust, and that he could not make an uncle of the Shah a dependent of the British Government, and that no injustice had been shown to the Prince to admit of his affording him protection, he then abandoned this case, confessing that the Persian Ministers were in the right, and he took in hand other unmeaning matters, such as the protection he gave to one of his ferrashes who had been drinking, and was apprehended by the watch. He demanded repeatedly, that the person who seized his servant should receive the bastinado; and all the messages sent to him to ask why* he demanded that the sticks should be administered, seeing that he was residing in Tehran on the part of a civilized Government, and ought, therefore, to point out to the people the road towards civilization, were of no avail. In the same way, many unsuitable matters were undertaken by him during this short period, which are unworthy of (publication in) this paper. Every day he was in search of some matter to afford an occupation for himself, and to give embarrassment to the Persian Ministers, until he found the case of Meerza Hashem Khan. The story of this person, which our correspondent heard, is, from first to last, as follows:—

14. Meerza Hashem Khan, from what has become known, was first of all employed as a page in the late Shah's harem, and afterwards accompanied Nassir-oon-deen Shah, then heir apparent, when he went to Azerbijan. When the Shah returned from that province to Tehran, and ascended the throne, Meerza Hashem Khan was appointed on a salary of 200 tomauns a-year, to be a Gholam Pish-khidmet to His Majesty. After some time he was, at his own solicitation, named to a post in the army, and one day, he secretly, without rhyme or reason, fled and took sanctuary in the British Mission. Mr. Thomson wished to appoint him first Persian Secretary to the Mission, and intimated his nomination to that post to the Persian Ministers; but they silenced him by sound arguments, and he relinquished his first intention, when he dismissed him from the situation and placed another in his stead, whose appointment he announced to the Persian Government. The Persian authorities desired to withdraw Meerza Hashem Khan from the sanctuary of the Mission; but he put off from day to day, saying that he feared he would be molested. Mr. Thomson proposed to send him to the Persian Ministers, accompanied by one of his own people; but the Persian Ministers declined, because several cases similar to this had occurred, and whenever a person from the Mission came along with any one, he was considered by the Mission as one of their dependents and a British subject. Mr. Thomson was informed that if Meerza Hashem Khan left the Mission without the interference of the British authorities, he would be treated with perfect kindness. He, however, remained in the Mission until Mr. Murray arrived, and in the summer, when the Shah with his Court and the Mission all removed to their summer quarters, Meerza Hashem Khan accompanied the Mission.

Meerza Hashem Khan never was named to any post in the army.

15. From what we have heard from Persia, whether true or false we cannot assert, Meerza Hashem Khan, who is married to the daughter of one of the princes, and about whose wife there is a long story which cannot be inserted in this paper, took his wife with him to the summer residence, and gave her a place near the garden in which Mr. Murray resided. This matter having acquired in the city of Tehran notoriety in an improper and scandalous way, it appears that the Persian Ministers, wishing to make (Mr.) "Murray" acquainted with this

The Meerza took his wife with him when he accompanied the Mission to country quarters; and as the whole village does not contain more than thirty houses, it is not wonderful that their's should be near the garden in which Mr. Murray resided.

* The verb is used in the second person singular, which is never done in the Persian language, excepting to servants and inferiors.

circumstance, addressed an official letter to him and to the other foreign Missions in Tehran; and under a disguise, explained the matter to them all in general terms, intending that (Mr.) Murray should be warned, and alter his conduct so that mischief should not be excited for himself and the Persian Ministers. (Mr.) Murray paid no attention to these hints, and when he returned to Tehran, he again hired a house in the neighbourhood of the Mission for the wife of Meerza Hashem Khan. The priesthood and people of Tehran, on learning this, sent letters and wrote petitions on the score of religion, and expostulated with the Persian Ministers, and, as nearly as possible, they were having a sudden and general tumult. (Mr.) Murray seeing that the curtain was withdrawn, began a discussion and correspondence with the Persian Ministers, under the pretext that he intended to employ Meerza Hashem Khan in the Mission, and to send him to Fars. Notwithstanding all the remonstrances made by the Persian Ministers, who demanded by what right or on what grounds he appointed a servant of the Shah, who had been brought up in the Royal Family, to the Mission, he would not listen; and, not satisfied with persisting in his demands, he alluded to the wife of Meerza Hashem Khan openly and publicly in an official letter, and demanded and intended to compel the Persian Ministers to lend themselves to the disgrace and danger of sending Meerza Hashem Khan's wife to the Mission. They, however, perceiving how dangerous the matter was, could not consent to his proposition, and (Mr.) Murray made this the pretext for striking the Mission flag, for suspending relations, and for withdrawing the Mission towards the Turkish territory. Our correspondent writes that it is extraordinary indeed that this affair in a Mahometan country did not lead to a general outbreak and tumult; and that the Persian Ministers must have taken great trouble in preventing things from going further. From what our correspondent hears, if Mr. Thomson struck the Mission flag, still it was on account of a merchant, and was not so disgraceful; but it is very disgraceful that the English flag should come down for the sake of a woman. We do not know in what way the British Government will remove this disgrace, or how they will treat their Representative.

16. Our correspondent has also learned that Dost Mahomed Khan, the Ruler of Cabul, had marched, at the instigation of the English Government, and with their support, against Candahar, and had captured that place; and that he intended to take Herat also. Although our correspondent was not certain of the truth of this intelligence, if such should really prove to be the case, it is evident that the withdrawal of the English Mission from the capital of Persia has been planned on that account; otherwise, a matter of so little importance as that reported to us, and which is the ostensible reason for the removal of the Mission from Tehran as stated above, could hardly have caused a rupture in the relations of that friendship which has for so many years existed between the Government of England and that of Persia. This is a rumour which has reached our correspondent; but the truth or inaccuracy of it has not yet been ascertained.

Translated by
(Signed) Ronald F. Thomson.

Throughout the rest of the paper, Her Majesty's Minister is mentioned as "Murray," without any titles whatever.

This Circular, addressed to all the Missions, had no reference at all to the British Mission, and was antecedent in date to all the discussions concerning Meerza Hashem Khan and his wife.

A downright falsehood. She lived with her own husband, and Mr. Murray did not and does not even know where their house was situated.

"The Priesthood, &c," that is, the Sadr Azim himself, drew up a paper containing all his own calumnies and falsehoods, and sent it round among the priests, requiring them to affix their seals to it, which many of them, for fear of his displeasure, were obliged to do. The Chief Priest, Imaum-o'-Joomah, had the courage to refuse to sign the paper, saying that he had no knowledge of the truth of its contents.

Another gross and absurd falsehood. Mr. Murray's demand, often repeated and transmitted to the Foreign Office, was that she should be released, and be restored to her husband.

The flag was hauled down, and the Mission removed from Tehran, before the news of Dost Mahomed Khan's march had reached that city.

No. 69.

Consul Stevens to the Earl of Clarendon.—(*Received March* 3.)

(Extract.) *Tehran, January* 8, 1856.

I HAVE been informed, on reliable authority, that the Persian Government are sending proposals to Dost Mahomed Khan of a nature hostile to the British Government. It is probably more in the belief that this will delay the Affghan Chief's march upon Herat, and thus give the Persians time to reach the place, than from any real hope of drawing him into an alliance against British India.

No. 70.

Mr. Murray to the Earl of Clarendon.—(*Received at Paris, March* 27.)

(Extract.) *Tabreez, February* 15, 1856.

IF I am not much mistaken, the intelligence most interesting to Her Majesty's Government, which can be transmitted from Persia at this moment, is that which would throw light on the present state of affairs in Herat, and as the letters which reach me from India must doubtless have been, long ere this. delivered in London, it is not improbable that their contents may have caused considerable anxiety to Her Majesty's Government. I believe the sum and substance of the truth to be, as I have before represented it to your Lordship, namely, that Prince Mahomed Youssuf seized, or rather recovered, the throne of Herat, not only without the aid, but also without the knowledge, of the Persian Government; and that he has no predeliction whatever for the Persians, but wished and hoped to rule as an independent Prince. Nevertheless, as a drowning man will catch at a straw, so the Prince, threatened by a powerful hostile party within the walls of Herat, and at the same time by an attack from Dost Mahomed Khan, has in all probability solicited the aid of the Persian Government; that aid has hitherto been limited to fair promises, and to the dispatch of 6,000 or 8,000 men towards the frontier, but the instructions issued to their Commander have not transpired. In a country like this, where all political transactions are carried on by intrigue and treachery, it is scarcely possible to predicate what is the real intention of the Government; one thing, however, is certain, that they are endeavouring, and will endeavour, to the utmost of their power, to excite trouble in Affghanistan, so as to direct to that quarter a great portion of the attention and resources of the Indian Government. Our correspondent writes to Mr. Stevens to the effect that Sam Khan, a powerful Chief in Khorassan, and who has much influence among the Affghan tribes, has received 10,000 tomauns from the Persian Government, to be used in securing the co-operation of the influential inhabitants of Herat, and if he succeeds in doing so, he is instructed to seize the person of Prince Mahomed Youssuf, and to take possession of the place in the name of the Shah.

Another circumstance worthy of notice is, that a Ghilzie Chief, named Gholaum Sadik Khan (who was Acting Governor of Candahar during the absence of Kohendil Khan on his expedition against Herat), arrived some weeks ago at Tehran, ostensibly on a pilgrimage to Mecca. He offered to the Persian Government his services, on certain conditions, to direct an expedition against Candahar from Beloochistan and Seistan. He was honourably received, a house and presents were given to him, but it would seem that the terms which he had demanded were such as it did not suit the Persian Government to grant, and he was allowed to pursue his way towards Mecca. Soon after his departure, the news of the probable cessation of hostilities between Great Britain and Russia reached Tehran from Constantinople, a special messenger was immediately sent after the Ghilzie Chief, who brought him back to Tehran, where he now is, in the enjoyment of high honour, favour, and promises from the Sadr Azim.

No. 71.

Mr. Murray to the Earl of Clarendon.—(*Received April* 26.)

(Extract.) *Tabreez, February* 22, 1856.

HAVING at length obtained a copy of the original autograph letter addressed by the Shah to his Ministers, just after my departure from Tehran, a French translation of which was forwarded to your Lordship on the 26th December, I now inclose for your Lordship's information a literal translation of the said document in English.

It is much to be regretted that His Majesty should have permitted himself to be induced, by the pernicious counsels of an unprincipled and intriguing adviser, to put his name to such a paper, but it is evident to me that the Sadr

Azim having himself insulted the Mission, was resolved that the Shah should be dragged into the quarrel: he accordingly filled his Sovereign's ear with a multitude of slanders and falsehoods concerning me, and incensed the Shah to such a degree that in a moment of passion His Majesty forgot what was due to his own position and to mine.

The Sadr Azim is now endeavouring to deny the existence, or at least the promulgation, of this document, which was, however, communicated to all the Missions in Tehran excepting this.

With respect to the alleged impropriety of the despatches which I had addressed to the Persian Government, as referred to in this autograph, I have only to observe that every line written by me has been forwarded to your Lordship. Her Majesty's Government is, therefore, in a condition to judge whether my despatches have contained a single expression disrespectful to the Shah, or unbecoming my character as British Minister.

Inclosure in No. 71.

The Shah to the Sadr Azim.

(Translation.) *December* 1855.

LAST night we read the paper written by the English Minister Plenipotentiary, and were much surprised at the rude, unmeaning, disgusting, and insolent tone and purport. The letter which he before wrote was also impertinent. We have also heard, that in his own house, he is constantly speaking disrespectfully of us and of you, but we never believed; now, however, he has introduced it in an official letter. We are, therefore, convinced that this man, Mister Murray, is stupid, ignorant, and insane, who has the audacity and impudence to insult even Kings! From the time of Shah Sultan Hossein (when Persia was in its most disorganized state, and during the last fourteen years of his life, when, by serious illness, he was incapacitated for business) up to the present time, no disrespect towards the Sovereign has been tolerated, either from the Government or its agent. What has happened now that this foolish Minister Plenipotentiary acts with such temerity? It appears that our friendly Missions are not acquainted with the wording of that document; give it now to Meerza Abbas and Meerza Malcum, that they may take and duly explain it to the French Minister and Hyder Effendi, that they may see how improperly he has written. Since last night till now, our time has been passed in vexation. We now command you, in order that you may yourself know, and also acquaint the Missions, that until the Queen* of England herself makes us a suitable apology for the insolence of her Envoy, we will never receive back this her foolish Minister, who is a simpleton, nor accept from her Government any other Minister.

Translated by
(Signed) Robert Lewis Taylor, *Major.*

No. 72.

Mr. Murray to the Earl of Clarendon.—(Received April 19.)

(Extract.) *Tabreez, March* 6, 1856.

I HAVE the honour to inform your Lordship that, although I had intended remaining here until I received distinct intimation of the wishes of Her Majesty's Government as to the movements of the Mission, circumstances have occurred which have determined me to move nearer to the Turkish frontier.

A few days ago the Kaimakam (Governor of Azerbijan and nephew of the Sadr Azim) wrote to our Mehmandar a note, which the latter was instructed to communicate to me, stating that he wished to go to Tehran for the approaching Noorooz; and as he did not like to leave Tabreez whilst I remained, in case anything disagreeable should happen to me, he desired to know how long I

* The objectionable term "Malikeh" is used.

proposed to stay here, and what was my object in remaining. To which I wrote, in reply, that I was quite at a loss to imagine why his Excellency's presence here could be necessary on my account, as I supposed that here, as elsewhere in Persia, a foreign Minister would be sure to meet with security and respect; but that, as I did not choose that my remaining here should subject his Excellency to any inconvenience, or myself to questions which I considered out of place, I requested the Mehmandar to procure the mules necessary for our departure as soon as possible.

I am of opinion that the Kaimakam was either exceeding or departing from his instructions in writing this impertinent note, for he has made great exertions to get it back into his own hands, but I have declined to give it up, knowing that, like his uncle and the higher powers at Tehran, he would shortly deny ever having written it.

At present I shall proceed to Ooroomiah, where I shall await another post; and if no contrary instructions arrive, I shall continue my route southward by any route that I may find practicable. All are very bad at this season among the mountains of Kurdistan, through which we must pass, owing to the snows, which are just beginning to melt.

No. 73.

Mr. Murray to the Earl of Clarendon.—(*Received April* 19.)

My Lord, *Tabreez, March* 7, 1856.

I HAVE the honour to inclose, for your Lordship's information, copy of a despatch which I have received from Mr. Stevens, inclosing copy of a letter addressed by the Sadr Azim to the foreign Missions in Tehran, explaining the intentions of the Persian Government with regard to Herat and Candahar.

This document was accompanied by twelve inclosures, purporting to be copies of letters addressed to the Shah by the brothers and sons of the late Kohendil Khan; but as their contents are embodied in the Sadr Azim's letter, I have not thought it necessary to trouble your Lordship with translations of them. I have reason to believe that several of these letters are fictitious, and that the Persian Government received communications from only a few of the members of Kohendil Khan's family.

I have, &c.
(Signed) CH. A. MURRAY.

Inclosure 1 in No. 73.

Consul Stevens to Mr. Murray.

(Extract.) *Tehran, March* 1, 1856.

I HAVE succeeded in obtaining, and inclose herewith, for your Excellency's information, copy of a circular just addressed by the Persian Prime Minister to the foreign Missions at this Court (together with copies of its twelve inclosures), acquainting them with the reasons which compel Persia to adopt measures against Dost Mahomed Khan.

Inclosure 2 in No. 73.

Translated Substance of a Circular addressed by the Sadr Azim to the Foreign Missions in Tehran.

20 *Jumadee-oos-Sanee*, 1272. (*February* 27, 1856.)

AFTER his Excellency Mr. Murray, the British Minister, left this Court, as has already been made known to your Excellency, certain events happened

in Affghanistan, which had no connection whatever with the question upon which Mr. Murray broke off relations, but were separate occurrences, directly at variance with the Agreement regarding Herat, and calculated to disturb the internal affairs of Persia, besides causing serious dangers to the Persian frontier, especially in Khorassan, and to the independence of that province. Therefore, the Persian Ministers have found themselves obliged to adopt measures for the removal of these dangers in accordance with the above Agreement and with their former conduct—that is to say, to preserve order in the Governments of Herat and Candahar. But as these events and movements have occurred about the same time that the English Mission quitted Tehran, uninformed persons have been led to suppose that these circumstances probably have some connection with the removal of the Mission, and that a coolness has arisen between the Governments of Persia and England, as appears from several articles which have been published in the European journals. The Persian Ministers, however, being firm and steadfast in their friendship for the English Government, and believing that the conduct of Mr. Murray will not interfere with the maintenance of friendship between the two States, but that his suspension of relations with this Government was a personal matter, consider it necessary to communicate the true state of the case to your Excellency in this letter, so that it may become known that the object of the Persian Ministers is merely to repress mischief and disturbance, and to establish order in the internal affairs of this Government, not to adopt any new scheme or to oppose the British Government. The ancient and present practice and agreement of the Persian Government for the preservation of their frontiers in Khorassan, Seistan, Beloochistan, and Kerman, for the tranquillity of these parts, and for the encouragement of commerce, has been, that the Sirdars and Governors of Herat, Candahar, and Cabul, and indeed of all Affghanistan, should each one confine himself to the place of his own government, and not interfere with his neighbours. Lately, when Kohendil Khan of Candahar died, the Government and Sirdarship of that place ought by inheritance, and in accordance with the former practice, to have descended to one of his children; and the Persian Ministers, in consideration of the close connection which Kohendil Khan had with Persia, were on the point of dispatching a person to Candahar to condole with the family of the late Khan, and to reconcile them to each other, some misunderstanding having arisen about the succesion, when Dost Mahomed Khan of Cabul, under the pretext of coming to comfort the family, and to arrange their matters, arrived at Candahar, and took possession of it, with an army much larger than he had the power or means to support of himself, or than he had ever maintained before. The sons and brothers of Kohendil Khan, each one was forced to save himself by flight. They have all of them—amongst others, Rehemdil Khan, Meer Afzul Khan, Mahomed Sedeek Khan, Mahomed Omar Khan, Sultan Alee Khan (Moozuffer-ed-Dowleh, who, in the lifetime of Kohendil Khan, came as a servant of the Shah to Tehran, and received the above title, besides the rank of Colonel), Gholam Mohei-ed-Deen Khan, Abdullah Khan, Khooshdil Khan, Esan Khan, the Sahib Zadeh, Mahomed Alum Khan, and Fatteh Mahomed Khan—written letters to His Majesty the Shah, complaining of the injustice of Dost Mahomed Khan's seizure of their home. Copies of these letters are inclosed herein for your information. They have implored the Persian Ministers to prevent the above oppressive act, and to cause the country to be left in its former position. Dost Mahomed Khan, not content with seizing Candahar, has determined to march on Herat, and Prince Mahomed Youssuf, the Ruler of Herat, and all the Chiefs and authorities in that Principality, have also written separate letters to the Persian Ministers, complaining of the injustice of this.

On the other hand, Sirdar Alee Khan of Seistan has sent with great speed a letter to this Government from Sehkoohee, which is Persian territory, stating that Dost Mahomed Khan has sent one of his sons to plunder Seistan and Beloochistan. As the Persian Ministers perceive that, from the improper and dangerous policy of Dost Mahomed Khan, these countries, as well as the Province of Khorassan, are on the point of being plunged into extreme disorder, and in consideration of the letter which I wrote to your Excellency on the 5th instant, they are compelled to dispatch an army to Herat to repress this disturbance, and to preserve that Principality and the Province of Khorassan, and

to maintain troops between these two countries, so that Dost Mahomed Khan may not interfere beyond his own Government, and give rise to disturbances. The Persian Ministers are obliged to protect the sons of Kohendil Khan, and to maintain order in that Government.

Translated by
(Signed) Ronald F. Thomson.

No. 74.

Mr. Murray to the Earl of Clarendon.—(*Received April* 19.)

(Extract.) *Tabreez, March* 7, 1856.

I HAVE the honour to inclose, for your Lordship's information, copy of a despatch received this day from Mr. Stevens.

Inclosure in No. 74.

Consul Stevens to Mr. Murray.

(Extract.) *Tehran, February* 29, 1856.

RUMOURS have for some days past been current here of an intention on the part of the Persian Government to send a large army into Affghanistan, for the purpose of wresting Candahar from the hands of Dost Mahomed Khan. I think I can confidently state that the step has been positively decided upon, and that the force will comprise 12,000 or 15,000 Regular, and 5,000 Irregular troops, and twenty pieces of artillery, the whole to be commanded by Meerza Mahomed Khan, Serkeshikchebashee, assisted by the most experienced native officers, who have been ordered to be ready for leaving Tehran about the latter end of March.

The Government to-day received a messenger announcing the entry into Herat of Sam Khan, who had subsequently summoned Sultan Moorad Meerza to join him with all possible dispatch. His Royal Highness accordingly quitted Toorook for that place on the 15th instant, and it is now supposed here, that he has ere this quietly occupied it in the name of the Shah. This, however, is only a surmise; but in a very few days we may expect to hear what has really occurred.

I continue without any intelligence from Meshed.

No. 75.

Mr. Murray to the Earl of Clarendon.—(*Received April* 20.)

(Extract.) *Tabreez, March* 7, 1856.

I HAVE the honour to inclose, for your Lordship's information, copy of a despatch addressed to me by Mr. Consul Stevens, containing translation of a letter which the Persian Government has exhibited to the foreign Missions in Tehran, as having been addressed by Mr. Thomson to the Ruler of Herat. The absurdity of the letter itself would be sufficient to mark it as a fabrication; but I thought it right, for form's sake, to communicate it to Mr. Thomson, of whose reply I inclose herewith a copy. It will not be a matter of surprise to your Lordship that the Persian Government, which has lately thought fit to propagate so many slanders and calumnies against Her Britannic Majesty's Mission and Government, should, in this instance, have had recourse to forgery, for the purpose of giving a colour of justice to their own act of aggression on Herat and Affghanistan.

Inclosure 1 in No. 75.

Consul Stevens to Mr. Murray.

(Extract.) *Tehran, March* 1, 1856.

I HAVE the honour to inclose a copy of the letter which the Persian Government pretends was written by Mr. Secretary Thomson to Syed Mahomed Khan of Herat.

Inclosure 2 in No. 75.

Letter said to have been addressed to the Ruler of Herat by Mr. Thomson.

(Translation.) 7 *Shaaban*, 1270. (*May* 5, 1854.)

THE kindly letter which your Excellency dispatched in charge of Mustoofee Moolla Akram Khan and Hassan Beg, became collyrium to my eyes at the time when they were anxiously directed along the road of expectation.

Now that the Mustoofee is about to return, I have considered it necessary to bring myself to your recollection by writing and forwarding this friendly letter. Your Excellency, as the Mustoofee is an intelligent and sensible man, I have told him three things :—First, let an Englishman be placed in Herat, and whatever ammunition and muskets, and other warlike stores, may be required by you will not be refused; and of ready money for expenditure, he will be authorized to give as much as two crores (500,000*l*.).

But as the Mustoofee did not approve of this, I told him to have one of the sons of Zeheer-ood-Dowleh (Ruler of Herat) sent to the Governor-General. In this case whatever he desired would be granted without delay; any part of Affghanistan which the Zeheer-ood-Dowleh might take possession of must be open to the interference of the British authorities, however. Affghanistan, that is, all those who are Affghans in the country, will belong to the Zeheer-ood-Dowleh. This also did not please the Mustoofee. He said that these two propositions depended entirely on a reference to the Zeheer-ood-Dowleh.

The third matter is that if you do not agree and still continue your intercourse with the Persian Government, very good; the friendship of the British Government will not be withheld from you. You must also not neglect to send persons occasionally to the British (authorities), and do not act contrary to custom in your dealings with Persia. Refrain from plundering in Khorassan, Affghanistan, and Seistan, so that the British Government may not be liable to complaints being made by any foreign Government. You can choose for yourself in these two or three propositions. From the friendship of certain persons, about whom you have been deceived, you can expect nothing. At any time, when you feel disposed towards these propositions, you will not be disappointed in the reply, even after ten years. No one will know the substance of this letter excepting ourselves. This paper is a voucher in your hands.

Translated by
(Signed) Ronald F. Thomson.

Inclosure 3 in No. 75.

Mr. Thomson to Mr. Murray.

Sir, *Tabreez, March* 7, 1856.

IN returning to you the copy of the letter said to have been written by me to some person in Herat, I have only to say that it is from first to last an entire forgery, and that no such letter was ever written by me, or with my cognizance, either to the then Ruler of Herat or to any other person in that place.

I have, &c.
(Signed) WM. TAYLOUR THOMSON.

No. 76.

Lord Stratford de Redcliffe to the Earl of Clarendon.—(*Received April* 22.)

(Extract.) *Constantinople, April* 10, 1856.

I HAVE seen the Persian Chargé d'Affaires, and listened to his official communication.

He began by repeating, on the part of his Government, the same professions of friendship, as before, for England, and the same complaints of Mr. Murray. I told him that such repetitions were thrown away upon me, as it was no part of my duty to enter into the merits of the questions which they involved.

He next informed me that if Her Majesty's Government thought proper to recall Mr. Murray, the Court of Persia would be ready to receive another British Minister in his place, not doubting that he would be directed to abstain from giving offence, and interfering with the internal affairs of the country.

I asked him in what manner he thought such a proposition would be received by Her Majesty's Government. He answered that he could not pretend to say.

I begged that he would put me in possession of whatever else he had to propose. He replied that he wished first to have an answer to what he had already stated. I rejoined that he might continue, or stop short, as he pleased, but that I was not prepared to give him the answer he required.

He then proceeded to say that the Shah would even receive Mr. Murray again if reason were given to believe that he would be more careful not to raise questions productive of bitterness, and abstain from interfering with the internal administration of Persia.

On my expressing curiosity as to the manner in which Mr. Murray would be received after all that had taken place, the Persian Chargé d'Affaires explained that the Shah might send a Chamberlain to take back the objectionable letter; that Mr. Murray might have an audience of His Majesty on the following day; that His Majesty's language would be such as to prove agreeable on learning from him that the questions in dispute would be no longer thought of; that the Sadr Azim would visit Mr. Murray the next day, and that Mr. Murray would return the visit a day later, receiving on both occasions an expression of friendly sentiments from the Persian Minister.

It was intended, moreover, that Meerza Hashem, whose proposed appointment as British Agent at Shiraz had been the original cause of disagreement, should enjoy a situation elsewhere in the employment of the Shah, with an addition of 200 tomauns a-year to his salary, which would thus be doubled, and that his wife should be restored to him.

On my inquiring whether the objections to the appointment made by Mr. Murray lay against the individual appointed, or altogether against the establishment of an agency at Shiraz, the Persian Chargé d'Affaires informed me that his Government objected to both. He added with respect to Candahar, that Dost Mahommed had attacked that place, and that the measures since taken by the Persian Government were solely directed to the defence of Herat against his invasion.

I undertook to convey the preceding communications to Her Majesty's Government and the Persian Chargé d'Affaires withdrew.

I have to add that with reference to the letter qualified above as "objectionable," the Persian Chargé d'Affaires spoke of a letter addressed by the Shah to his Prime Minister before Mr. Murray's departure from Trebizond.

No. 77.

The Earl of Clarendon to Lord Stratford de Redcliffe.

(Extract.) *Foreign Office, May* 15, 1856.

HER Majesty's Government have had under their consideration the communication made to you by the Persian Chargé d'Affaires, as reported in your despatch of the 10th of April, with a view to bring about the return of Her Majesty's Mission to Tehran.

Her Majesty's Government have no wish to prolong, unnecessarily, an estrangement which was created by the acts of the Persian Government; but they cannot consent to accept an inadequate reparation from that Government. They require that it should be made by the Persian Minister, who was the author of the wrong; that it should be ample in its character, and brought publicly to the knowledge of the inhabitants of the capital.

In the next place, although, if any well-founded objections of the Persian Government to the employment of Meerza Hashem as Agent, at Shiraz, of the British Mission, had been duly brought before them by that Government, Her Majesty's Government might have refrained from sanctioning his appointment, yet as no sufficient explanation has been given of the reasons on account of which the Persian Government made their objection, and as the Persian Prime Minister has thought fit to impugn the motives of Her Majesty's Minister for insisting upon the employment of the Meerza at Shiraz, Her Majesty's Government must now require that Meerza Hashem should proceed to Shiraz as Agent of the British Mission, his wife being at once restored to him.

If the course which the Persian Government may determine to take on this matter should admit of the return of Her Majesty's Minister to Tehran, Her Majesty's Government will consent that the whole of the correspondence between Her Majesty's Mission and the Persian Government, in regard to the appointment of Meerza Hashem, should be mutually withdrawn and be cancelled; but Her Majesty's Government will expect and require that when the British flag is again hoisted over the residence of the British Mission, the reconciliation which will have been effected between the two Governments shall be made known to the inhabitants of Tehran by a salute of twenty-one guns, to be fired in honour of the British flag. The Sadr Azim must also immediately afterwards pay a visit of ceremony to Her Majesty's Minister, who would return that visit the next day.

Your Excellency will communicate to the Persian Chargé d'Affaires, for the information of his Government, the observations contained in this despatch.

No. 78.

The Earl of Clarendon to Lord Stratford de Redcliffe.

(Extract.) *Foreign Office, May* 15, 1856.

IT is right that I should state to your Excellency what amount of satisfaction Her Majesty's Government would consider to be sufficient to admit of their allowing Mr. Murray to return to Tehran. Her Majesty's Government are, upon the whole, of opinion that they might, without impropriety, accept, as regards the Prime Minister's conduct, a proposal embodying the following conditions:—That the Sadr Azim should write a letter to Mr. Murray, expressing his regret at having uttered and given currency to the offensive imputation upon the honour of Her Majesty's Minister, and requesting to withdraw his own letter of the 19th of November, and the two letters of the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the 26th of November, one of which contains a rescript from the Shah, repeating the imputation upon Mr. Murray. That in the same letter the Sadr Azim should declare that no such further rescript from the Shah as that of which I inclose a copy,* was communicated, directly or indirectly, to any of the other foreign Missions at Tehran; and that a copy of the Sadr Azim's letter, containing this apology and declaration, should be officially communicated by the Sadr Azim to each of the Foreign Missions at Tehran; that the original letter should be transmitted to Mr. Murray, at Bagdad, by the hands of some high Persian officer, and should be accompanied by an invitation to Mr. Murray, in the name of the Shah, to return with the Mission to Tehran, another person of suitable rank being appointed to conduct him as Mehmandar on his journey through Persia. That Mr. Murray, on approaching the Persian capital, should be received by persons of high rank deputed to escort him into the town and to his residence; and that, immediately on his arrival, or, at all events, at noon on the following day, the Sadr Azim should go in state to the residence of the British Mission, and personally renew friendly relations, and should then accompany him to the presence of the Shah.

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* Inclosure in No. 71.

No. 79.

The Earl of Clarendon to Mr. Murray.

(Extract.) *Foreign Office, May* 15, 1856.

HER Majesty's Persian Mission should proceed to Bagdad, and there await further orders, abstaining in the meanwhile from all communication, direct or indirect, with the Persian Government.

Her Majesty's Consuls will remain respectively at Tabreez and at Tehran; but Mr. Consul Stevens, at the latter place, will be enjoined to have no communication whatever, direct or indirect, with the Persian Government, on political matters; to hold himself aloof from Court solemnities or public representations; and to confine himself, in the strictest manner, within the limits of his Consular functions, laying before the Persian Government any cases in which British subjects may be aggrieved in their commercial pursuits, but not entering into any further discussion if the alleged grievance is not at once redressed; but in such case merely transmitting to the Persian Minister a formal protest against the wrong which may have been committed.

On your departure from the Persian territory, you will dismiss the Mehmandar who was appointed by the Persian Government to attend you.

No. 80.

The Earl of Clarendon to Consul Stevens.

Sir, *Foreign Office, May* 15, 1856.

I HAVE to state to you that Her Majesty's Persian Mission has been directed to proceed to Bagdad, and there await further orders, abstaining in the meanwhile from all communication, direct or indirect, with the Persian Government.

You will, nevertheless, yourself remain at Tehran; but you will have no communication whatever, direct or indirect, with the Persian Government on political matters; and you will hold yourself aloof from Court solemnities or public representations, and confine yourself in the strictest manner within the limits of your Consular functions, laying before the Persian Government any cases in which British subjects may be aggrieved in their commercial pursuits, but not entering into any further discussion if the alleged grievance is not at once redressed; but in such case merely transmitting to the Persian Minister a formal protest against the wrong which may have been committed.

I am, &c.

(Signed) CLARENDON.

No. 81.

Mr. Murray to the Earl of Clarendon.—(Received May 16.)

My Lord, *Ooroomiah, March* 22, 1856.

I HAVE the honour to inclose, for your Lordship's information, copies of two despatches which I have received from Mr. Consul Stevens regarding Herat and the Persian movements in that quarter.

I have, &c.

(Signed) CH. A. MURRAY.

Inclosure 1 in No. 81.

Consul Stevens to Mr. Murray.

Sir, *Tehran, March* 9, 1856.

PREPARATIONS for the expedition against Candahar are continued here, but the Serkeshikcheebashee* has asked for and obtained permission to defer his departure until fifteen days after the Noorooz, that is, about the 5th April. He is to be invested with the title of Mookhtar-ood-Dowleh, will be furnished with 100,000 tomauns from the money recently seized by the King at the house of his uncle, Essan Khan, and orders have been issued for preparing 1,000 medals and decorations which the Serkeshikcheebashee is to carry for distribution among the Affghans.

Gholaum Sedeek Khan is to accompany the expedition, and has received 3,000 tomans for outfit.

I inclose the last Tehran "Gazette," containing an article which, under the guise of a declaration of religious toleration, is really meant to be a propitiatory address to the Soonnees of Affghanistan.

No late intelligence has been received from the East, but it cannot be long in reaching the capital, for according to the Sadr Azim's calculation, Sultan Moorad Meerza was to reach Herat twelve days ago.

I have, &c.

(Signed) RICH. W. STEVENS.

Inclosure 2 in No. 81.

Consul Stevens to Mr. Murray.

Sir, *Tehran, March* 11, 1856.

JUST as the post is leaving, I receive the following information from a well-informed quarter.

Abbas Koolee Khan, Gerroossee, arrived yesterday from Herat; he travelled by ordinary stages, and therefore brings no recent intelligence, but what he does report to the Government is not uninteresting.

The garrison of Herat consists of 6,000 men, and is commanded by Essan Khan, who is decidedly anti-Persian. Provisions were at high prices; wheat six tomauns (3*l.*), barley five tomauns (2*l.* 10*s.*) the hurwer.

Sultan Moorad Meerza's force amounts to 15,000 men, two thirds of which are Irregular Foot and Horse. If the Prince should have encountered any opposition, he will be in a difficult and dangerous position from the scarcity and dearness of provisions. Abbas Koolee Khan is of opinion that Essan Khan will not admit the Persians. On the other hand, I am told that merchants' letters from Herat mention that the latter has been seized; and this Government is so certain of the Prince's success, that it is to-day sending off a Tofangdar† with thirty dresses of honour, some decorations, and jewelled daggers, for distribution among the higher classes of that town.

Yesterday a grand selam was held for the purpose of publicly reading the letters and receiving the presents of which he was the bearer. The letters were full of assurances of devotion and submission to the King of Persia; one contained a passage alluding to the British Government; this was not read. The presents consisted of a few Cashmere shawls, and five horses for the King, and others for the Prime Minister and his son.

The Herat Envoy has a guard of honour placed at the door of his residence with orders to prevent him from holding communication with anybody not connected with the Sadr Azim.

I have, &c.

(Signed) RICH. W. STEVENS.

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* Commander of the Body-Guard. † Body Guardsman.

No. 82.

Consul Stevens to the Earl of Clarendon.—(*Received May* 16.)

My Lord, *Tehran, March* 20, 1856.

I HAVE the honour to forward, for your Lordship's information, a French translation of an article recently published in the Tehran "Gazette," by the Persian Government, purporting to be a true statement of the causes which led to Mr. Murray's withdrawal from this Court.

I have subjoined some remarks to enable your Lordship to judge of the degree of veracity to which the document is entitled.

I have, &c.

(Signed) RICH. W. STEVENS.

Inclosure in No. 82.

Traduction d'un Article de la "Gazette de Tehran," 6 Rezzeb, 1272 (*March* 13, 1856).

LE "Journal de Constantinople," des 7 et 13 Djemadi-ul-evvel, d'après diverses nouvelles qu'on lui avait fait parvenir, a rapporté l'affaire de Mr. Murray assez longuement. Comme les nouvelles sont contraires à la vérité, et réellement loin de la réalité, tant dans les noms des personnes que dans les pourparlers qui ont eu lieu, enfin comme il n'y a rien de vrai, on peut supposer que ces nouvelles lui sont parvenues par l'entremise des personnes mal-informées, ou hostiles à notre Gouvernement; donc il est nécessaire que la vérité de cette affaire, telle qu'elle est arrivée, soit imprimée dans cette Gazette, et que les erreurs qui ont été commises par le "Journal de Constantinople" soient redressées; ainsi nous renseignerons le public sur cet événement sans le moindre atome de différence, de manière qu'il n'y aura plus ni doute ni équivoque.

D'abord, il fut question d'un appelé Mirza Hachim Khan, qui depuis son enfance jusqu'à aujourd'hui a été au service du Gouvernement Persan, et payé par lui, sans qu'il lui fut fait jamais ni tort, ni injustice, ni aucune imposition forcée. Son emploi était en rapport avec son rang; il fut d'abord page du harem Royal, puis Gentilhomme de la Chambre, et enfin placé comme élève au Collége Militaire de Téhéran. Avant l'arrivée de son Excellence Mr. Murray, Mr. Thomson, Chargé d'Affaires d'Angleterre, voulut le faire entrer au service de la Mission. Le Gouvernement Persan de son côté n'y consentit point, et répondit qu'il était employé du Gouvernement Persan (jusqu'à aujourd'hui même il a son

Remarks by Mr. Stevens.

Meerza Hashem Khan was never in the Military College or in the military service.

Meerza Hashem has not received a farthing from the Persian Government for the last two years.

traitement), et qu'une telle chose ne pouvait être accordée. Mr. Thomson, en ayant écrit à son Gouvernement, reçut une réponse conforme au vœu de notre Gouvernement, et en conséquence ne l'admit point au service. Une ou deux années après, lorsque Mr. Murray vint en ambassade, et qu'il fut arrivé à Téhéran, il commença à faire de nouvelles démarches pour l'affaire de Mirza Hachim Khan, et demanda pour lui une augmentation de traitement. Le Gouvernement Persan, considérant que ses appointements étaient suffisants pour lui, et que plusieurs fois il avait accordé antérieurement de telles demandes pour différentes personnes, pensa que les choses doivent avoir des certaines bornes, et ne voulut point consentir à cette demande-ci.

Le susdit Ambassadeur posa alors de nouvelles demandes ; il voulut le faire entrer au service Anglais comme Agent à Chiraz, et en écrivit officiellement à notre Gouvernement, mais comme d'après les Traités, le Gouvernement Anglais ne peut tenir d'Agent dans d'autres villes que Tabreez, Téhéran, et Bender Bushire, le Gouvernement Persan n'y consentit point. Le susdit Ambassadeur fit pour cette affaire beaucoup de démarches, tant qu'enfin il fit venir dans le voisinage de l'Ambassade Anglaise la famille de Mirza Hachim Khan, qui demeurait dans le quartier de Sengaletch ; mais comme sa femme est de la famille Royale, et que cette manière d'agir était contre le décorum dû à son rang, et contre la religion Musulmane, et que cela pouvait fomenter une sédition, le Gouvernement Persan fit en conséquence sortir cette femme de là et l'envoya dans la maison de son père, Fan Ahmet Aly Mirza. C'est alors que le dit Ambassadeur commença à agir avec véhémence, et écrivit officiellement ce qui suit :—

1. Qu'on ferait venir la femme de Mirza Hachim Khan de la maison de père dans l'environ de l'Ambassade Anglaise, et qu'on la remettrait à son mari.

2. Que Mirza Hachim Khan serait fait Agent de Chiraz.

3. Que son Altesse le Premier Ministre viendrait à l'Ambassade faire des excuses.

Les grands du Gouvernement Persan ne voulant point exposer l'honneur d'une femme de la famille Royale, et voulant conserver l'amitié du Gouvernement Anglais, décidèrent qu'on confierait à Mirza Hachim Khan sa femme,

I know not to whom this alludes, but I can affirm that Mr. Murray never asked or obtained any such favours from the Persian Government.

The British Mission has native agents at Shiraz, Ispahan, Meshed, and Asterabad, who are known as such to the Persian authorities. Moreover, on one occasion the present Prime Minister sent one of his own employés all the way to Shiraz to be punished in the presence of the British Agent, whom he had insulted.

Meerza Hashem Khan's family left the quarter called Sengaletch in the month of June, in consequence of a misunderstanding between his wife and his mother : to the latter belonged the house they there inhabited.

The house they occupied in the Mission quarter was hired by the Meerza in the middle of October, whereas Mr. Murray's announcement of the appointment to Shiraz was about a month later.

Mr. Murray simply demanded her restoration to her husband.

et qu'il irait demeurer où il voudrait, excepté dans le voisinage de l'Ambassade Anglaise. Pour le deuxième article, qui était contraire aux Conventions et surtout à la justice, et en considération du susdit Ambassadeur, qui pensait que les émoluments de Mirza Hachim Khan n'étaient pas suffisants, le Gouvernement voulut de son propre gré lui accorder une certaine somme comme augmentation de ses appointements. Quant au troisième Article, il était par trop contre le Gouvernement Persan; il n'y avait jamais eu un tel précédent, et jamais chose aussi extraordinaire n'était arrivée de faire une demande tellement rebutante; on ne pouvait y consentir. Néanmoins le Gouvernement Persan, afin de conserver l'amitié et la bonne entente qui existaient depuis plusieurs années entre les Gouvernements, décida que le Ministre des Affaires Etrangères irait donner cette satisfaction. Mr. Murray n'ayant été content sur aucun de ces points, le 9 Rebbi-ul-evvel (le 20 Novembre, 1855), baissa son pavillon, et après quelques jours demanda un Mehmandar et partit pour Tabrez. Cet événement, dans toute sa vérité, est tel que nous venons de le rapporter dans cette "Gazette," et toute personne qui a de la justice ou qui a été témoin des faits, attestera que cette affaire ne méritait pas tous ces démêlés. Le susdit Ambassadeur s'est trop pressé et n'a pas eu assez de patience; comme il était nouvellement arrivé, et qu'il ne comprenait point les coutumes du pays, ses ennemis, dans le déguisement de l'amitié, en ont été les instigateurs, et ont saisi l'opportunité de cette petite affaire pour servir à leurs desseins, et à l'aide de ce prétexte ont fait parvenir l'affaire à un degré aussi sérieux. Réellement le Gouvernement Persan a toujours usé de prévenances; il a toujours observé, en tout point, avec les Gouvernements les Conventions établies, et n'a jamais été en arrière avec aucun Gouvernement sous ce rapport. Encore dans notre livre saint (le Coran), ainsi que dans les traditions du Prophète (que la bénédiction, &c.), il est ordonné d'observer les Conventions, alors nous savons donc bien qu'il le faut; du reste, beaucoup d'étrangers à ce sujet, l'ont éprouvé. Il est écrit: "Tenez les promesses que vous avez fait, exécutez-les, parceque une promesse est sainte, et le signe de la foi est de tenir sa promesse; ainsi il est indispensable d'exécuter sa promesse, et celui qui ne l'exécute pas est un impie."

This is untrue: the present Prime Minister's predecessor in office, the Ameer Nizam, called upon Sir J. Sheil to apologise for an insult offered by the local authorities to the British Consul at Tabreez.

Mr. Murray remained in Tehran sixteen days after striking his flag.

On a écrit aussi dans le "Journal de Constantinople" du 13 Djemadi-ul-evvel, qu'après le départ de Mr. Murray on avait renvoyé le Consul Anglais, et aussi que Mirza Hachim Khan est d'une des familles marquantes de la Perse, et que par des raisons d'inimitié on lui avait enlevé son emploi, on l'avait mis à l'amende, on avait saisi ses biens, et que beaucoup d'avances lui avait été faites—ces choses sont tout-à-fait controuvées et fausses ; le Consul du susdit Gouvernement réside à Téhéran, jouissant de toute la considération possible, et dans l'exercice de ses propres fonctions, et il n'a jamais été commis envers lui le moindre manque de respect. Mirza Hachim Khan aussi a conservé son rang et ses biens ; le tout est tel que nous l'avons mentionné, et aucun préjudice ne peut lui être causé ; du reste il y en a beaucoup comme lui en Perse, parmi les grands, qui n'ont aucune considération ; mais il ne lui a été fait aucun tort, et jouissant la protection Royale il avait de quoi pourvoir à son entretien. On n'a pas emprisonné non plus sa femme, mais il était de l'honneur du Gouvernement de conserver l'honneur de cette femme ; c'est pour cette raison qu'on lui fit quitter le voisinage de l'Ambassade Anglaise, et qu'on l'envoya à la maison de son père actuellement même ; elle jouit de toutes les prérogatives dûes à son rang, et elle est dans les bonnes grâces du Roi. On a écrit aussi qu'il était convenu entre les Gouvernements Persan et Anglais, que les personnes employés à l'Ambassade seraient, ainsi que leurs familles, sous la protection Anglaise. Le Gouvernement Persan répond à cela, que cette condition n'a été faite à aucune époque et avec aucun Gouvernement, et de plus elle est regardée par lui comme arbitraire.

Malgré tout cela le Gouvernement Persan éprouve beaucoup de regret pour ce qui est arrivé, et il fait tout son possible pour respecter les Conventions, et pour conserver les bonnes relations qui existent depuis plusieurs années.

Il ne réculera pas un instant, tant qu'il pourra le faire pour contenter et satisfaire le Gouvernement Anglais, et il espère que le Gouvernement Anglais, sur les démarches non comprises et prématurées de son Excellence l'Ambassadeur, qui a agi d'après les paroles de personnes hostiles, ne se fera pas l'instrument de leur inimitié, et considérera la chose sous le point de vue de la justice.

Persians of respectability are prohibited from visiting Mr. Stevens, or receiving him at their houses.

She was and still remains imprisoned, although in the house of her brother ; and at one time a watch was placed over her, to prevent her communicating with any person.

The King on two occasions ordered the woman's brother to destroy her, which he evaded by pleading her pregnancy ; the act would, under such circumstances, have been a gross violation of the Mussulman law.

The most simple reply to this unfounded assertion will be afforded by the following extract of Article VI of the Russo-Persian Treaty of 10th February, 1828 :—

"Les sujets Persans faisant de la suite du Ministre, ou du Chargé d'Affaires et des Consuls, et nécessaires pour leur service, jouiront, tant qu'ils se trouveront près d'eux, de leur protection à l'égal des sujets Russes."

Her Majesty's Government are in possession of ample documentary evidence to test the sincerity of the friendly sentiments here expressed.

(Translation.)

Translation of an Article in the "Tehran Gazette" of the 6th Rezzeb, 1272 (March 13, 1856).

Remark by Mr. Stevens.

THE "Journal de Constantinople" of the 7th and 13th Djemadi-ul-evvel has a somewhat lengthy report of the affair of Mr. Murray, from various information which it had received. As this information is contrary to the truth, and really far from the reality, both with respect to the names of the persons and the conferences which have taken place, and as in short there is no truth in the report, one must suppose that the information has been furnished by persons ill-informed or hostile to our Government; it is, therefore, necessary that the truth of this affair, as it really took place, should be printed in this "Gazette," and that the mistakes which have been committed by the "Journal de Constantinople" should be set right. We will therefore enlighten the public upon this matter, without the least atom of difference, so that there may no longer be either doubt or ambiguity about it.

In the first place, a question arose respecting a person of the name of Meerza Hashem Khan, who from his childhood to the present day has been in the service and pay of the Persian Government, without having suffered either wrong or injustice, or any compulsory imposition. His employment was suitable to his rank; he was at first page of the Royal Harem, then Gentleman of the Chamber, and at last placed as a student in the Military College at Tehran. Before the arrival of his Excellency Mr. Murray, Mr. Thomson, the British Chargé d'Affaires, wished to take him into the service of the Mission. The Persian Government, on its part, would in no way consent to this, and replied that he was in their own employ (he receives his salary up to this present time), and that such a thing could not be granted. Mr. Thomson, having written to his Government, received an answer in conformity with the wish of our Government, and consequently did not take him into the service. One or two years afterwards, when Mr. Murray came as Ambassador, and had arrived at Tehran, he commenced fresh proceedings in the affair of Meerza Hashem Khan, and solicited for him

Meerza Hashem Khan was never in the Military College, or in the military service.

Meerza Hashem has not received a farthing from the Persian Government for the last two years.

an increase of salary. The Persian Government considering his emoluments sufficient, and reflecting that they had on several previous occasions granted similar requests for different persons, thought that there should be some limits to this sort of thing, and would not, therefore, accede to the application.

The above-mentioned Ambassador then made some new demands; he wished to take him into the British service, as Agent at Shiraz, and wrote officially to our Government on the subject; but as, according to the Treaties, the British Government could only have Agents in the towns of Tabreez, Tehran, and Bender Bushire, the Persian Government would not consent to it. The Ambassador tried in many ways to accomplish this matter, and actually brought the family of Meerza Hashem Khan, who lived in the Sengaletch quarter, to the neighbourhood of the British Embassy; but as Meerza Hashem's wife is a member of the Royal Family, and as such a proceeding was contrary to the decorum due to her rank, and to the Mussulman religion, and as it might have excited a tumult, the Persian Government forced her to quit that place, and sent her to the house of her father, Fan Ahmet Aly Meerza. The Ambassador then began to act with impetuosity, and he wrote officially to make the following demands:—

1. That Meerza Hashem Khan's wife should be brought from her father's house to the vicinity of the British Embassy, and restored to her husband.
2. That Meerza Hashem Khan should be made Agent at Shiraz.
3. That his Highness the Prime Minister should come to the Embassy to make apologies.

The principal members of the Persian Government, not wishing to dishonour a lady of the Royal Family, and wishing to preserve the friendship of the British Government, decided upon giving Meerza Hashem Khan the care of his wife, and that he should live where he pleased, except in the vicinity of the British Embassy. As for the second article, which was contrary to the Conventions, and, above all, to justice, and out of consideration for the Ambassador, who considered that the emoluments of Meerza Hashem Khan were insufficient, the Persian Government were willing, of their own accord, to grant him a certain sum as an increase of his salary. With

I know not to whom this alludes, but I can affirm that Mr. Murray never asked or obtained any such favours from the Persian Government.

The British Mission has native agents at Shiraz, Ispahan, Meshed, and Asterabad, who are known as such to the Persian authorities. Moreover, on one occasion, the present Prime Minister sent one of his own employés all the way to Shiraz to be punished in the presence of the British Agent, whom he had insulted.

Meerza Hashem Khan's family left the quarter called Sengaletch in the month of June, in consequence of a misunderstanding between his wife and his mother: to the latter belonged the house they there inhabited.

The house they occupied in the Mission quarter was hired by the Meerza in the middle of October, whereas Mr. Murray's announcement of the appointment to Shiraz was about a month later.

Mr. Murray simply demanded her restoration to her husband.

respect to the third article, it was too adverse to the Persian Government; there was no precedent for such a proceeding, and it was an unheard-of thing, to make so repulsive a demand; it was imposible to consent to it. Nevertheless the Persian Government, in order to preserve the friendship and good understanding which had existed for many years between the two Governments, decided that the Minister for Foreign Affairs should go, in order to give the desired satisfaction.

This is untrue: the present Prime Minister's predecessor in office, the Ameer Nizam, called upon Sir J. Sheil to apologise for an insult offered by the local authorities to the British Consul at Tabreez.

Mr. Murray not having being satisfied upon any of these points, struck his flag on the 9th Rebbi-ul-evvel (November 20, 1855), and, after some days, demanded a Mehmandar, and left for Tabreez. The account we have given in this "Gazette" is the true statement of this occurrence, and everybody who has any sense of justice, or has been a witness of the facts, will affirm that this affair was not worth all these disputes. The Ambassador was in too great a hurry, and too impatient; having but recently arrived, and not understanding the customs of the country, his enemies, under the guise of friendship, have been the instigators of this paltry affair, and have seized the opportunity for promoting their own designs, and, by means of this pretext, have brought the matter to its present serious state. In fact, the Persian Government has always acted with consideration. It has always and on every point observed the Conventions established with foreign Governments, and in this respect has never been behindhand with any Government. Again, in our Holy Book (the Koran), as well as in the traditions of the Prophet (may the blessings, &c.), it is commanded to observe Conventions; we, therefore, are sure that it should be done. Many strangers, moreover, have found this to be the case. It is written: "Keep the promises which you have made, and perform them, for a promise is holy, and the keeping of promises is a sign of the faith; it is therefore indispensable that promises should be kept, and he that performs them not is an ungodly man."

Mr. Murray remained in Tehran sixteen days after striking his flag.

It has also been stated in the "Journal de Constantinople" of the 13th Djemadi-ul-evvel, that, after the departure of Mr. Murray, the English Consul was sent away, and also that Meerza Hashem Khan is a member of one of the chief families of Persia, and that, from ill-will, he had been deprived

of his office, fined, deprived of his property, and that many advances had been made to him. These things are entirely false and trumped up. The British Consul resides at Tehran in the enjoyment of all possible consideration, and in the exercise of his proper functions, without the slightest disrespect being shown him. Meerza Hashem Khan, moreover, retains both his rank and his property; all this is as we have stated it, and no harm can possibly come to him. Besides this, there are in Persia, among the nobility, many like him, who are held in but slight estimation; but he has suffered no wrong, and, being under Royal protection, he had enough to live upon. Nor has his wife been imprisoned, but it was incumbent upon the Government to preserve her reputation. This was the reason why she was obliged to leave the neighbourhood of the British Embassy, and sent to her own father's house. She enjoys all the privileges due to her rank, and is in favour with the King. It has also been stated that there was an agreement between the Persian and British Governments that the persons employed at the Embassy, as well as their families, should be under British protection. To this the Persian Government replies, that this condition has never been made at any time, or with any Government, and is, moreover, considered by them as an arbitrary one.

In spite of all this, the Persian Government regrets deeply what has taken place, and are doing everything in their power to respect the Conventions, and to preserve the friendly relations which have existed for many years.

They will not hesitate for a moment, as far as rests with them, in doing their utmost to satisfy and please the British Government, and they hope that that Government will not act upon the premature and unintelligible measures of his Excellency the Ambassador, who was actuated by the suggestions of unfriendly persons, thus making themselves the tools of these persons' malice, but will consider the affair in its just light.

Persians of respectability are prohibited from visiting Mr. Stevens, or receiving him at their houses.

She was, and still remains imprisoned, although in the house of her brother; and at one time a watch was placed over her, to prevent her communicating with any person.

The King on two occasions ordered the woman's brother to destroy her, which he evaded by pleading her pregnancy; the act would, under such circumstances, have been a gross violation of the Mussulman law.

The most simple reply to this unfounded assertion will be afforded by the following extract of Article VI of the Russo-Persian Treaty of 10th February, 1828:—

"Persian subjects belonging to the suite of the Minister, or of the Chargé d'Affaires and Consuls, and who are necessary for their service, shall enjoy, whilst with them, the same protection as Russian subjects."

Her Majesty's Government are in possession of ample documentary evidence to test the sincerity of the friendly sentiments here expressed.

No. 83.

Consul Stevens to the Earl of Clarendon.—(*Received May* 16.)

My Lord, *Tehran, March* 21, 1856.

I HAVE the honour to inclose for your Lordship's information, copy of a letter which I yesterday addressed to the Persian Minister for Foreign Affairs,

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acquainting him with my inability to accept the presents of sweetmeats which were sent to me by the King and Prime Minister on the occasion of the Persian New Year.

Setting aside what I considered the impropriety, under existing circumstances, of receiving the attention, I felt that had I acted differently, it would have been supporting the belief which the Persian Government is anxious to inculcate in the capital, that its quarrel is entirely of a personal nature with Mr. Murray, quite unconnected with Her Majesty's Government.

I have, &c.

(Signed) RICH. W. STEVENS.

Inclosure in No. 83.

Consul Stevens to the Persian Minister for Foreign Affairs.

Tehran, March 20, 1856.

AN employé of the Persian Government has just brought to me some trays of sweetmeats on the part of His Majesty the Shah, and another person a similar present from his Highness the Prime Minister.

In the actual state of relations between our respective Governments, it would be unbecoming in me to accept of any mark of favour from the Persian Government. I regret, therefore, that it should have placed me under the disagreeable necessity of returning the sweetmeats, and, consequently, doing what has proved most painful to my feelings.

I have, &c.

(Signed) RICH. W. STEVENS.

No. 84.

Consul Stevens to the Earl of Clarendon.—(*Received May* 16.)

(Extract.) *Tehran, March* 31, 1856.

I HAVE the honour to inclose for your Lordship's information, the substance of intelligence just received from Meshed, the latter part of which confirms the report mentioned in my former despatch, of the departure from Toorbet-e-Jam of the Persian army, under Prince Sultan Moorad Meerza. The Persian Government has received news to a later date, announcing the arrival, under the walls of Herat, of the advanced guard, consisting of 4,650 men, under Pasha Khan Serteep, and that Sultan Moorad Meerza, with 5,200 men, had reached the neighbourhood of Ghorian.

A further sum of 20,000 tomauns has just been dispatched to the Prince from the capital, with orders to occupy Herat at any cost or hazard. The Government calculates on the inhabitants being starved into submission, provisions being both dear and scarce. If the Prince succeeds in obtaining supplies for his own troops, while he cuts off the Heratees from communication with the surrounding villages, it is not unlikely the place will fall into his hands without any, or at all events without much, fighting.

In a letter from the Prime Minister to Sultan Moorad Meerza, carried by the messenger who was bearer of the money above-mentioned, the following passage occurred:—

"You engaged, with 10,000 troops and 10,000 tomauns, to occupy Herat. I have sent you 80,000 tomauns, and you have 15,000 troops, and what have you yet done? We will now admit of no further excuses: Herat must be taken."

Inclosure in No. 84.

Substance of News from Meshed.

A PERSON arrived to-day from the Persian camp at Toorbet-e-Jam, reports the arrival there of the Mufti of Herat, as Envoy from the Ruler of that place, to Prince Sultan Moorad Meerza, to whom he brought some horses and shawls. The precise object of the mission is unknown; but this much has transpired: the Mufti requested the Prince either to retire from Jam, or at least not to advance beyond it, while he, the Mufti, proceeded to Tehran to take the King's pleasure on the subject.

Prince Sultan Moorad Meerza has demanded that the Heratees should receive three Persian regiments into the citadel; that the coin be struck in the name of the King of Persia, and that the Friday prayer be read in the mosques for His Majesty. In return, the Prince offered to secure to the Chief of Herat (Mahomed Youssuf Meerza) an annual pension of 60,000 tomauns from the Persian Government, to secure the regular succession to the throne to the heirs of that Chief, and to defend Herat from enemies who might threaten it.

The Chief replied, that he himself was the devoted servant of the Shah, but he had no power to compel the people of Herat to accept the demands of Prince Sultan Moorad Meerza. That they possessed followers, both horsemen and foot; that all parties, including the clergy, are determined rather to lose their lives than allow the Kajjars to hold Herat.

It is impossible to admit a single soldier, they (the inhabitants) say: "We are all servants of the Shah, and Herat belongs to him; but we cannot allow Persian soldiers to come and reside amongst us: we will sooner first destroy our wives and children, and then ourselves—after that let happen what may."

Two of the town gates have been walled up, and guards are placed round the town walls at night.

A person from camp reports that Sultan Moorad Meerza is instructed, if the Heratees do not submit, to proceed thither, and entrench his army under the walls. Each entrenchment to hold 2,000 Infantry and 1,000 Horse; if sorties are made, they are to be repelled, if not, the troops are to remain quietly in their entrenchments.

The Prince's army consists of nine regiments of Infantry, 2,000 Horse, and some Artillery; four guns, and a mortar from Tehran, have reached Meshed, and will be sent to the Prince if he requires them.

Sam Khan is quartered in a garden outside of Herat, and occasionally enters the town to confer with the Chief and with Essan Khan.

March 14, 1856.—To-day a man arrived from camp; orders have been issued by Prince Sultan Moorad Meerza, prohibiting people from carrying grain and provisions into Herat, and the Ruler of Herat is compelling the villagers, within a circuit of forty miles, to remove into the town with all their stocks; he is evidently preparing for resistance.

March 15, 1856.—News arrived that the Prince has broken ground, and proceeded to Herat. A regiment of Infantry has left Meshed to-day to reinforce the army.

Letters have been received from Sirdar Ali Khan, of Seistan, stating that Dost Mahomed Khan is at Candahar, with, apparently, no intention of moving in any direction whatsoever.

No. 85.

Consul Stevens to the Earl of Clarendon.—(*Received May* 16.)

(Extract.) *Tehran, April* 2, 1856.

A PERSON has just informed me that the Persian Government has received letters from Prince Sultan Moorad Meerza, announcing his having regularly besieged the town of Herat.

From another equally good source, I learn that previous to the approach of the Persian army, the Heratees sent a force to Ghorian and entirely destroyed the place after removing the inhabitants.

No. 86.

The Earl of Clarendon to Consul Stevens.

Sir, *Foreign Office, May* 16, 1856.

IN reply to your despatch of the 21st of March, I have to inform you that Her Majesty's Government approve of the letter which you addressed on the 20th of that month to the Persian Minister for Foreign Affairs, declining to accept the presents of sweetmeats which were sent to you by the Shah of Persia and his Prime Minister, on the Persian New Year's Day.

I am, &c.

(Signed) CLARENDON.

No. 87.

Lord Stratford de Redcliffe to the Earl of Clarendon.—(Received May 23.)

(Extract) *Constantinople, May* 12, 1856.

I HAVE the honour to inclose herewith a translation of the Sadr Azim's letter presented to me by Malcum Khan.

Inclosure in No. 87.

The Sadr Azim to Lord Stratford de Redcliffe.

After Compliments. 20 *Redjeb,* 1272. (*March* 27, 1856.)

A LETTER was written to that Excellency, the abode of grandeur, under date (left vacant in the original), and various matters were included in the folds thereof. Although that Excellency has not as yet occupied himself with writing an answer, still, the high in dignity, the approacher to the Royal presence, Meerza Ahmed Khan, the Pilgrim, Agent of the Most High State (Persia), resident at Constantionople, has written a detailed report of the various kindly feelings of that Excellency, and has thereby confirmed the good opinion of the Ministers of this Kingdom, which has been formed concerning that Excellency without their personally knowing him.

Now, then, under the consideration that it is not unlikely that the matters which have occurred at the seat of the Caliphate (Tehran) with the Legation of the English Government, have not reached the knowledge of the mind of that Excellency in full detail, and as they really took place; and that, by reason of the spreading of false reports and of words mingled with uncertainty by interested persons, the truth of the matter may have remained behind the veil of concealment; therefore, the high in dignity, the fellow-traveller of grandeur and sagacity, Meerza Malcum Khan, a Major on the Staff, the Special Interpreter of the Most High State, who, by his own eye-sight and witnessing, is aware of the details of this matter from the commencement to the conclusion, is sent to Constantinople, so that, concurrently with the high in dignity, the Agent of this Kingdom, he may now relate the actual occurrences to that Excellency, the abode of grandeur.

From the perfect uprightness of character and purity of intentions of that Excellency, which are admitted by every one, complete confidence is felt that, after the arrival of the aforementioned high in dignity, and the obtention in respect of him, from that Excellency, of the reception which is hoped and expected by (me) your friend, the secret thoughts of the minds of the Ministers of the Kingdom, which are entirely (composed) of friendship towards the Kingdom of England, will be known to that Excellency, and will be a means of doing away with the said false rumours from people's mouths and tongues;

and also, that that Excellency, having acquired a thorough conviction of the permanency of friendship between the two Kingdoms, will exert himself with the intent that he may make the foundations of the same stronger and firmer even than before, and that he will not refuse or withhold his various kindnesses (in endeavouring) to do away with this unpleasantness in a manner conformable to the dignity of the two Kingdoms.

He (the Prime Minister) further requests that Excellency to esteem as truth-speaking the high in dignity, Meerza Malcum Khan, in that which he may say respecting the secret thoughts of the minds of the Ministers of the Kingdom, and to attach consideration to his words.

No. 88.

Mr. Murray to the Earl of Clarendon.—(*Received May* 23.)

(Extract.) *Camp at Ooroomiah, April* 2, 1856.

A FEW days ago, the Sadr Azim sent me, through the Mehmandar, a formal apology on the part of the Shah and the Government, for the impolite behaviour of the Kaimakam to me at Tabreez (reported to your Lordship in despatch of 6th March), and assuring me that it was entirely unauthorized and reprobated by the Government.

No. 89.

Mr. Murray to the Earl of Clarendon.—(*Received May* 23.)

(Extract.) *Ooroomiah, April* 7, 1856.

AFTER I had found it necessary to haul down the Mission flag, I remained sixteen days in Tehran, in order to give the Persian Government full time for reflection and repentance, and I warned them repeatedly during that period, that if I once withdrew the Mission from Tehran, the reparation to be demanded would rest with Her Majesty's Government. To that warning I have adhered, and still adhere, so that it becomes obviously necessary that Her Majesty's Government should signify its views and intentions clearly to the Persian Court and to myself.

I believe, my Lord, that when in 1838 Sir John McNeill demanded of the Persian Court satisfaction for the seizure and maltreatment of one of his Persian servants, he allowed three days for the acceptance or refusal of his demand, at the expiration of which time he withdrew the Mission. Under provocations which your Lordship will admit to have been no less serious, I accorded a delay of a fortnight, not because I did not feel that I was entitled to immediate compliance with my demand, but because I had not, like my above-named able predecessor, the advantage of twenty years' experience in Persia, and I was resolved that an undue precipitation should not be urged either against Her Majesty's Government or its Representative. There are so many remarkable points of resemblance between the two cases, that it is scarcely possible that it should have escaped your Lordship's notice: the tone of correspondence, the prevarication and falsehood of the Persian Minister, the profuse professions of friendship for the British Government, accompanied by acts of annoyance to the British Mission, all have been repeated so exactly, that in referring to the despatches of that period, I could almost imagine that the present Sadr Azim had copied and improved upon the subterfuges of his predecessor.

Permit me to refer your Lordship to a sentence in one of Sir John McNeill's despatches to Lord Auckland, dated the 25th June, 1838:—"Persia has systematically pursued a course which has continually tended to depress the British Misssion, and to destroy British influence, not only in the Court, but in the country. From these petty acts of annoyance, she has proceeded to an invasion of Affghanistan, in opposition to the views of England, and disregarding the formal intimation that such a course, if adopted, might diminish the cordiality between the States. Not content with this, she seizes the first oppor-

tunity to offer a public insult to the British Mission and Government, by the treatment which was inflicted on the messenger," &c.

Substituting the word "Meerza" for "Messenger," every word of the above sentence is applicable to the present rupture. There is, however, this remarkable difference, that whereas Mahomed Shah and his Minister always wrote to Sir John McNeill in the highest tone of courtesy, I have received official letters written by the present Shah and his Minister, more indecorous and offensive than were ever addressed, even by this Court, to any foreign Representative.

The whole of Sir John McNeill's despatch to Lord Palmerston, dated the 25th June, 1838, is so singularly descriptive of my own position in relation to the Persian Court, previous to the rupture, that I can scarcely believe it to have been written eighteen years ago. Nevertheless, as I have before observed to your Lordship, though the policy of the Persian Court may then have been as false and treacherous to England as it has been this last year, there was then at least a show of courtesy and respect for the British Minister. It is true they seized and maltreated his messenger, and the Sadr argued that the Persian Government had the right to seize, at pleasure, any Persians in the employ of the British Mission (a doctrine which Sir John McNeill indignantly repudiated), but they released the messenger immediately on demand. They did not on this occasion imprison a member of his family for successive months, in spite of reiterated reclamations, neither did they venture upon a threat, such as the present Sadr Azim uttered against the Mission on the day that I left Tehran, and officially notified to the French and Ottoman Missions, namely, that if Meerza Hashem Khan was among my suite when I left the town, the Government servants should drag him from his horse, secure and imprison him. Your Lordship already knows that it was from a desire to avoid an unseemly street brawl, and the possibility of bloodshed, that I prevented the execution of this threat by ordering the Meerza not to accompany me on that occasion.

No. 90.

Mr. Murray to the Earl of Clarendon.—(*Received May* 23.)

(Extract.) *Ooroomiah, April* 7, 1856.

I HAVE the honour to inclose, for your Lordship's information, translated substance of a letter which I have received from Meshed, containing several items of news regarding Herat, and the proceedings of the Persian authorities with reference to that Principality.

I have learned from another source, that the Prince Governor of Khorassan, who had halted for some time at Toorbet-e-Sheikh-Jam, had marched from that place in the direction of Herat, after hearing that Sam Khan had been refused admittance into the city. My informant also states that Dost Mahomed Khan had not advanced from Candahar.

From the Province of Asterabad, the Agent reports that since the arrival of Jaffer Koolee Khan, the newly appointed Governor, the greatest tranquillity prevailed, and the incursions of the Toorkomans, from which the inhabitants have lately suffered so severely, have, under his administration, been entirely repressed.

Inclosure in No. 90.

Substance of a Report from Meshed, dated February 20, 1856.

(Translation).

THE Prince Governor of Khorassan has sent one of his people to the Sirdar of Seistan, Ali Khan, to inform him that troops consisting of the Affshar Regiment, with two guns, had been ordered to proceed to Berjen, in Kaïn, to repel any attack which might be made by Dost Mahomed Khan from Candahar, and requesting him to afford all the assistance in his power to Governor

of Kaïn, for the defence of his district; money has been promised to him for this purpose.

Pasha Khan, Colonel, has proceeded towards Herat as far as Toorbet-e-Sheikh-Jam, where he was joined by Sam Khan with 400 horsemen. Pasha Khan afterwards moved on to a place near the Herat frontier, and Sam Khan advanced to Hérat, where he encamped outside the town, the Affghans in the city having refused to allow his people to enter the town. The Prince Governor himself has advanced to Toorbet-e-Sheikh-Jam with two regiments of Infantry and all the Khorassan horsemen, with five guns, and he intends to await in that place intelligence from Sam Khan.

Meer Afzul Khan, a nephew of Dost Mahomed Khan, had arrived at Ferrah, with 5,000 horsemen, and had brought with him a large quantity of grain; other supplies of provisions were on the road to that place.

Three regiments have since arrived in Meshed from Tehran. It is said that after a few days they will follow the Prince Governor to Sheikh-Jam; and 140 camel-loads of ammunition have been forwarded to his Royal Highness. A great scarcity of provisions prevailed in Pasha Khan's camp.

One of Dost Mahomed Khan's sons had also come with a large force to Ferrah; and it is rumoured that another of his sons had been dispatched against Herat by the Meimana road, in order to attack Herat simultaneously with Dost Mahomed Khan.

Translated by
(Signed) Ronald F. Thomson.

No. 91.

Mr. Murray to the Earl of Clarendon.—(Received May 23.)

(Extract.) *Ooroomiah, April 7, 1856.*

I HAVE the honour to inclose, for your Lordship's information, a translation of a letter addressed to Mr. Stevens by the Minister for Foreign Affairs. I understand that the allusion in the first sentence is to the circumstance of Mr. Stevens having referred to the King as His Majesty the Shah, and not having used the word Shahen-Shah, or King of Kings; but it has not been the custom of this or other European Missions to use the latter phrase when speaking of the Persian Sovereign.

The attempt of the Foreign Minister to represent the rupture now existing as entirely personal, and not compromising the relations of the two countries, is a stale subterfuge in the history of Persian diplomacy; and a reference to the archives will show, that never at any period was the Persian Government more profuse in its expressions of regard and friendship for that of England than at the time when they were besieging Herat, and, by the maltreatment of one of Sir John McNeill's messengers, had compelled him to haul down the flag and withdraw the British Mission from the Persian Court.

Inclosure in No. 91.

The Persian Minister for Foreign Affairs to Consul Stevens.

(Translation.) *March 22, 1856.*

I HAVE received your letter, some expressions in which are not suitable to the Royal dignity; but I attribute them to the incapacity of the (Persian) writer.

With regard to your statement that you returned the sweetmeats which, according to custom, were sent to the Mission on the part of His Majesty the Shah, and his Highness the Sadr Azim, although it has not been (the practice) for the Agents of allied Governments to return Royal presents, still, since you have acted thus, of course you have done what you thought proper, and you have justified such conduct on the misunderstanding between the Persian and British Governments. This, (however), the Persian Ministers will never admit, for the personal interruption of relations by his Excellency the Minister Plenipotentiary

of your Government, as has repeatedly, and in various ways, been stated on the part of the Persian Government, and is in this letter again distinctly repeated, has not injured the friendship existing between the two Governments: and the Persian Ministers consider that this friendship continues as formerly, and does not depend upon his Excellency's personal conduct.

Translated by
(Signed) Wm. J. Dickson.

No. 92.

Consul Stevens to the Earl of Clarendon.—(Received May 23.)

My Lord, *Tehran, April 9, 1856.*

I HAVE the honour to inform your Lordship that orders were yesterday issued by the Persian Government for the dispatch to Herat of six regiments of Infantry, 1,000 Irregular Horse, and thirty pieces of Artillery, in the following order:—

On the 11th instant Agha Khan, Meer Sing (Général de Division), will leave Tehran with 1,000 Cavalry and 2,000 Infantry. On the 16th, Abdul Alee Khan, Serteep (Brigadier), will leave with 3,000 Infantry and thirty pieces of Artillery; and on the 21st instant, Mehmed Reza Khan, Serteep, will leave with the remaining 1,000 Infantry.

These regiments form part of the army intended to be sent against Dost Mahomed Khan at Candahar, but they will not go beyond Herat until the latter is in possession of the Persians.

The Government has learned that the Heratees succeeded in collecting a considerable quantity of grain and provisions before the Persian army reached that place, and it may therefore hold out longer than was recently supposed.

The Mufti of Herat, whose arrival in the Persian camp I reported in the inclosure of my despatch of March 31, has been seized and sent a prisoner to Meshed, his entry into that town being attended with every possible insult. He was mounted on a common baggage-horse, having his hands tied behind his back. Such an indignity to a man of his rank will not fail to increase the opposition on the part of the Heratees to anything like submission to the Persians.

The Prime Minister has again declared his opinion, that by occupying Herat he will secure a means of easily arranging his quarrel with the British Mission, since it would enable him, if necessary, to offer the withdrawal of the Persian army from that place, as a set-off against any demand for redress connected with Mr. Murray's departure from Tehran.

I have, &c.
(Signed) RICH. W. STEVENS.

No. 93.

The Earl of Clarendon to Lord Stratford de Redcliffe.

(Extract.) *Foreign Office, May 24, 1856.*

YOUR Excellency will tell the Persian Chargé d'Affaires that if Persia occupies Herat, it will be another and distinct cause of quarrel with England, and that negotiations for settling existing differences will be useless.

No. 94.

Consul Stevens to the Earl of Clarendon.—(Received May 30.)

(Extract.) *Tehran, April 20, 1856.*

I HAVE the honour to report, for your Lordship's information, that according to authentic intelligence lately received here, it would appear that the Persian army, under Prince Sultan Moorad Meerza, did not reach the vicinity of Herat without encountering some opposition.

A battle was fought near Ghorian, which ended in the entire defeat of the Heratees, their commander, Ahmed Khan, with several hundred men, remaining prisoners in the hands of the Persians, whose loss, on the occasion, if their returns are to be believed, only amounted to four men killed, and twenty or twenty-five wounded.

The Prince reports that 1,400 men, from the garrison of Herat, had deserted and joined his forces.

Ghorian has been garrisoned by the Persians.

The Sadr Azim has led the Shah to expect the receipt of news announcing the fall of Herat, by the 10th proximo. He calculates more on the dissension which is said to prevail among the Heratees themselves, than on the prowess of Sultan Moorad Meerza's army.

On the other hand the Envoy from Herat now in Tehran ridicules the idea of the place being so easily captured.

At a Durbar held a few days ago the Shah publicly spoke of extending his conquests beyond Herat so soon as it is occupied by his troops.

Reported disturbances in Candahar, where, it is said, a strong party has risen against Dost Mahomed Khan, doubtless encourage the Persians in their designs against Affghanistan.

Some of the regiments mentioned in my despatch to your Lordship of the 9th instant, have proceeded to their destination, and the others are to follow immediately. Nearly all these troops have been supplied with new muskets of English manufacture, obtained by the Persian Government a few years since.

No. 95.

Lord Stratford de Redcliffe to the Earl of Clarendon.—(Received June 7.)

(Extract.) *Constantinople, May* 26, 1856.

HAVING to answer two letters addressed to me by the Persian Sadr Azim and already transmitted in copy to your Lordship, I make my reply the vehicle of communication to that Minister. A copy of my letter is inclosed herewith, as well as a copy of the letter by which I have requested Mr. Stevens to deliver it, accompanied with a Persian translation.

Inclosure 1 in No. 95.

Lord Stratford de Redcliffe to the Sadr Azim.

Sir, *Constantinople, May* 25, 1856.

I HAVE received at different times the two letters which your Highness did me the honour of addressing to me. I should not have failed to reply to them sooner, had not circumstances, which I was bound to consider, restrained me from yielding to my personal inclination. I am not, however, insensible to the reliance which your Highness has placed in my goodwill, nor have I neglected to make known to my Government the friendly assurances given by the Court of Persia, and its earnest desire, as expressed by your Highness, to remove every cause of misunderstanding and dissatisfaction between the two countries. I had no authority to treat. I could only facilitate the return of confidence by listening to the words of your agents, and transmitting them faithfully to London. I am now in daily expectation of receiving the necessary instructions, and I shall hold myself honoured in being an instrument of reconciliation. Whether I shall be a successful one must chiefly depend on your Highness, the Minister and confidential adviser of His Majesty the Shah. Two conditions are manifestly indispensable; first, that the existing differences should be frankly and satisfactorily settled; secondly, that the negotiations for settling them should not be made useless by the Shah's occupation of Herat, which would occasion another and distinct cause of quarrel with England. I cannot afford a better proof of my sincerity than by hastening to bring these essential matters under

your Highness's consideration, in order that fuller instructions and powers, if necessary, may be given to the Persian Chargé d'Affaires at this Court, and that every intention of occupying Herat by the forces of Persia may be relinquished.

I have, &c.

(Signed) STRATFORD DE REDCLIFFE.

Inclosure 2 in No. 95.

Lord Stratford de Redcliffe to Consul Stevens.

(Extract.) *Constantinople, May* 25, 1856.

I HAVE to request that you will do me the honour of delivering the letter inclosed herewith, to his Highness the Persian Sadr Azim. Though the letter is sealed, an exact copy of it is forwarded for your information, and as it is written in English, I have further to request that you will accompany it with a literal translation in the Persian language. You will render the obligation complete by sending me a copy of the translation.

No. 96.

Consul Stevens to the Earl of Clarendon.—(Received June 12.)

My Lord, *Tehran, April* 30, 1856.

NO important news has reached me from Khorassan since the date of my last despatches to your Lordship.

I am told that several influential persons, known to favour the Persian cause, have been seized and imprisoned, and one of them put to death by Mahomed Youssuf Meerza, the Chief of Herat. This intelligence has caused some disappointment to the Persian Government, which now apprehends increased resistance on the part of the besieged, although it entertains no doubt about the eventual fall of the place.

All the troops reported in my recent despatches as being destined to reinforce the army of Herat, have left Tehran. Prince Sultan Moorad Meerza has been ordered, when those regiments join him, to detach 2,000 men and four field-pieces in the direction of Candahar, by the road through Seistan.

The force will be joined *en route* by the Irregular Horse and Foot of Ghyne, and its command entrusted to a person named Meerza Rezah Khan, a native of Persia, who, as Meerza Rezah, was employed before the death of Kohendil Khan in drilling some regular troops in Candahar.

I have, &c.

(Signed) RICH. W. STEVENS.

No. 97.

Consul Stevens to the Earl of Clarendon.—(Received June 12.)

(Extract.) *Tehran, April* 30, 1856.

MR. MURRAY forwarded to your Lordship, in the month of January last, the translation of a long document, most offensive to Her Majesty's Government, which the Persian Government had drawn up for publication in foreign countries, and a copy of which I obtained soon after it was written.

I have now the honour to inform your Lordship that this Government has just circulated, in Tehran, several numbers of a newspaper published in the Persian language, in Bombay, the "Ahsân ul Ikhbar," of the 22nd of February, containing the article in question, word for word as I sent it to Mr. Murray; and the Sadr Azim, yesterday, issued orders for its reprint in the "Tehran Government Gazette."

No. 98.

Consul Stevens to the Earl of Clarendon.—(Received June 12.)

(Extract.) *Tehran, May 1, 1856.*

I HAVE the honour to inform your Lordship that a letter has just reached me from Meshed, dated the 21st April, from which I extract, for your Lordship's information, the most important items of its contents :—

"Yesterday afternoon a horseman of the Hezareh tribe arrived here from Sultan Moorad Meerza's camp; he reported that Mahommed Reza Meerza, brother of Mahomed Youssuf Meerza, accompanied by Naib Essan Khan, Vizier, and fifty horsemen, rode out from Herat and waited upon Sultan Moorad Meerza, with whom they passed the night; and it was rumoured that they had come to arrange the terms of surrender.

"People have arrived at Meshed from Candahar, passing through Herat, where, they say, provisions are dear and ammunition scarce.

"Letters from Birzan mention the arrival there of Mahomed Sedeek Khan, with eight battalions,* which are to be joined by some troops of Ghyne, and then proceeded to Ferrah and Candahar. Grain, in the Prince's camp, is selling at 1 kerran per Tabreez maun (about 1*s.* sterling per 6½ lbs.); every villager has been ordered to convey 30 mauns (200 lbs. of grain) to the camp, but mules and camels for its transport are scarce."

I may add, that corresponding intelligence has reached the Persian Government, and the Sadr Azim still leads the King to expect the news of the occupation of Herat by the 10th instant.

Essan Khan was the leader and most influential of the anti-Persian party in Herat; if the report of his arrival in the Prince's camp be true, the place has ere this surrendered.

No. 99.

The Earl of Clarendon to Lord Stratford de Redcliffe.

(Extract.) *Foreign Office, June 15, 1856.*

ON condition that Herat is immediately evacuated by the Persians, your Excellency need not insist upon sending Meerza Hashem to Shiraz.

No. 100.

Consul Stevens to Mr. Murray.—(Received June 16.)

Sir, *Tehran, February 20, 1856.*

I HAVE the honour to inform your Excellency that Prince Sultan Moorad Meerza left Meshed on the 1st or 2nd instant, for the Herat frontier, and that the Persian Government has just forwarded to him a further sum of 10,000 tomauns.

The Bahodooran regiment from Tabreez, 500 strong, was reviewed yesterday, by the King, and is to proceed immediately to Khorassan.

This Government is looking with intense anxiety for intelligence from the East. It hopes that Sam Khan may have succeeded in the object of his mission. Scarcely any well-informed Persians, however, will believe that Mahomed Youssuf Meerza can admit the smallest Persian force into Herat without endangering his own position there.

Gholaum Sedeek Khan, whose recall to Tehran I have reported to your Excellency, is employed here in raising horsemen for service in Seistan.

I inclose, for your Excellency's information, copy of a despatch to me from Her Majesty's Consul-General at Bagdad, regarding the Persian military movements from Kermanshah. I am inclined to consider the number of troops as

* This is an exaggeration; there were only two battalions.—R. W. S.

mentioned by that gentleman exaggerated, unless they are chiefly composed of Irregulars, of which I can obtain no correct information. I have a letter from the agent at Kermanshah, dated the 17th instant, when the Prince Governor had not yet quitted that place.

The regiment of the Guards, 800 or 900 strong, left Tehran two days ago for Bushire.

I have, &c.
(Signed) RICH. W. STEVENS.

Inclosure in No. 100.

Captain Kemball to Consul Stevens.

Sir, *British Consulate-General, Bagdad, February* 8, 1856.

I HAVE been informed by the Agent at Kermanshah, and intelligence which I believe to be authentic has likewise reached me from Mohamrah, to the effect that the Persian Government has dispatched considerable reinforcements to those places, and collected there large quantities of munitions and warlike stores.

At Kermanshah the aggregate force is estimated at 12,000 men, which would, it was said, march into Zohab, under the command of the Prince Governor in person, about the present date.

These movements, though not uncommonly ascribed, especially at Mohamrah, to the fears entertained by the Persian Government of an invasion from the English operating from Turkish territory, are regarded with considerable uneasiness by Reshid Pasha, the Governor-General of Bagdad, who mistrusts the assurances given by the Shah's Ministers to Hyder Effendi, the Ottoman Chargé d'Affaires at Tehran, and who dispatches this day a special messenger to the capital to call for more full and satisfactory explanations.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. B. KEMBALL.

No. 101.

Consul Stevens to the Earl of Clarendon.—(Received June 26.)

(Extract.) *Camp near Tehran, May* 19, 1856.

I HAVE the honour to inclose a translation taken by myself from an original letter, from which your Lordship will perceive that the Ruler of Herat, Shahzadeh Mahomed Youssuf, had been sent a prisoner to the Persian camp by his Vizier, Essan Khan, who is represented as having sold himself to the Persians, and submitted, with other Heratee Chiefs, to all the obligations constituting an allegiance to the Shah of Persia, barring, however, the admission of His Majesty's troops into Herat.

From what I learn in Tehran, I am inclined to believe that Essan Khan has duped the Persians; that, pretending to espouse their cause, he induced the Prince Commander-in-chief to withdraw his army to Bernabad, about twenty-five miles this side of Herat. He probably took the money offered to him as a bribe, and then set the Persians at defiance, after getting rid of his master, Shahzadeh Mahomed Youssuf, who was supposed to be in secret correspondence with the enemy. I am told the King and Sadr Azim are greatly incensed at a letter addressed by Essan Khan to the Persian Commander, stating that the Shahzadeh being of no utility in Herat, he was sent to the Persian camp, where, perhaps, he might be turned to account.

The Persian losses in attempting to storm Herat were considerably greater than was stated in my last despatch, one regiment alone, the "Nishapooree," having had, it was said, 700 men put *hors de combat*.

Three days ago, a further reinforcement of two battalions of Infantry, with a few pieces of siege artillery, were dispatched in great haste to Khorassan; ten more battalions, now on furlough, were ordered to assemble in Tehran by the middle of next month, and the Sadr Azim has also authorised Prince Sultan

Moorad Meerza to confirm Essan Khan in the Government of Herat, provided he will allow it to be garrisoned by Persian troops.

All this would indicate that the Persians are not now so sanguine of capturing the place with the military means at their disposal, notwithstanding the Sadr Azim pretends that Sam Khan is in possession of the citadel.

I have been informed, on the authority of the Prime Minister, that the forts of Laush, Jeven, and Kohak, have been occupied by Persian troops from Ghyne. These forts were dependencies of Candahar at the time of Kohendil Khan's death.

Inclosure in No. 101.

Extract from a Letter dated Bernabad, 23 Shaban, 1272 (April 29, 1856).

(Translation.)

TO-DAY, which is the 23rd of Shaban, was brought prisoner into our camp, the Prince Mahomed Youssuf, the same who had proclaimed himself King of Herat, that is to say, our rival, together with three other individuals, one of whom wounded: after having thrown the apple of discord between him and his Vizier, and brought over this latter and other chiefs of the town, they kept him in play until a dispute arose among them, of which they immediately took advantage, arrested him, and sent him as already mentioned: there now remain the arrangements between us and the Vizier about permitting some battalions of our troops to remain inside the town, a thing which they have not yet accepted, but I hope they will soon do so, since the Heratees agree to all the conditions, as subjects of His Persian Majesty, but for the permanent occupation they answer in the following manner. Vizier Essan Khan, chief:—"I myself will go to Tehran to the presence of His Majesty; he will point out a Governor for Herat, and me as Vizier, and then if he thinks proper, on our return, he may send his battalions. During this absence of the Vizier, I agree, moreover, that our friend the Elkhanee* will remain with 200 men of his Cavalry in temporary possession of the citadel of Herat, which commands all the town." This is what has passed until this day. I may tell you also that if the entrance of the battalions into the town is not permitted, hostilities will recommence.

Translated by
(Signed) Rich. W. Stevens.

No. 102.

Consul Stevens to the Earl of Clarendon.—(Received July 9.)

(Extract.) *Tehran, May 31, 1856.*

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith, for your Lordship's information, the translation of a recent report received from Meshed, containing intelligence about affairs at Herat.

Most of the intelligence is already in your Lordship's possession, but I nevertheless send the document, as it explains the belief that the Heratees had surrendered to the Persians. It also confirms my suspicion that in retiring from before Herat, the Persian Commander-in-chief had been duped by Essan Khan.

The Persian Government has received no information of a later date.

The Shah intends proceeding to Dernawend next week; and I am told, that should His Majesty not hear of the fall of Herat by the 15th proximo, it is his intention to extend the excursion to Damghaun, in the hope that His Majesty's appearance on the borders of Khorassan may alarm the Heratees into submission.

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* Sam Khan.

Inclosure in No. 102.

Report from Meshed.

(Translation.) 27*th Shaban*, 1272. (*May* 1, 1856.)

SEVERAL horsemen arrived to-day from Sultan Moorad Meerza's camp. They report that a few days ago Prince Mahomed Rezah (Prince Mahomed Youssuf's brother), together with the son of Essan Khan, and the son of Naib Abbas Khan, and their attendants, waited upon Sultan Moorad Meerza, with whom they remained the night. The sons of Essan Khan and Abbas Khan were made over to the Prince as hostages, and Mahomed Rezah Meerza, after receiving a dress of honour, returned to Herat. Two days afterwards, Mahomed Rezah Meerza again came to the camp: Essan Khan and Abbas Khan communicated secretly with Sultan Moorad Meerza; they requested him to withdraw the Persian army from the immediate neighbourhood, in order that the people might feel reassured, and believe that, having received hostages, he had altogether retired: "We will," they added, "seize Mahomed Youssuf Meerza, and send him to you a prisoner; an officer with three regiments may then approach, and will deliver the town and citadel into their hands: we will, moreover, cause the coin to be struck, and the Friday prayer to be read, in the name of the Shah."

Sultan Moorad Meerza thereupon struck his camp, and withdrew the army to Bernabad, which is seven fursukhs from Herat. Essan Khan and Abbas Khan collected their forces in the citadel: they picked a quarrel with Hagee Gholaum Khan, who discharged a pistol at the face of Essan Khan, but missed him; Essan Khan then ordered him to be arrested, which was done after he received two or three wounds. Abbas Khan after this entered the anteroom of Mahomed Youssuf Meerza, seized him, and brought him outside.

The Prince was treated with much indignity, having his beard and curls plucked, and together with Pir Mahomed Khan, Fooflaranee, Hagee Abdul Waheb Khan, Hagee Gholaum Khan, and two or three others, was on the same night brought to the Persian camp by Abbas Khan. On their arrival, Mahomed Rezah Meerza was seized and placed in charge of a guard. Abbas Khan received a dress of honour, and returned to town. Sultan Moorad Meerza again moved forward with the army, and encamped at Seng-e-Best, two fursukhs from Bernabad.

On the 1st Ramazan (May 5th) a person arrived from camp with news, that from Seng-e-Best, Sultan Moorad Meerza sent a message to Essan Khan—"Every promise made should be fulfilled" (alluding to the surrender of Herat). "Come to my camp that I may invest you with a robe of honour, and also give you a reward. I will send you back with an officer and three regiments, so that you may put them in possession of the town and citadel."

Essan Khan replied: Shahzadeh Mahomed Youssuf was my enemy, and as he also behaved treacherously towards you, I seized and sent him to you. But for this, I would have disposed of him otherwise, or killed him. Remain where you are, and send Sam Khan to inform us what you require of us. I will forward a representation to the Shah of Persia; let the answer arrive, and in the meanwhile I will try to persuade (gain over) the Doorannees, the clergy, and nobles, and then consider what is to be done. To come to you just now, or to deliver over to you the town, is impossible."

When this reply reached Sultan Moorad Meerza, Pir Mahomed Khan, Hagee Abdul Waheb Khan, and Hagee Gholaum Khan, were released from confinement, and dresses of honour given to them. Mahomed Youssuf Meerza, and his brother, Mahomed Rezah Meerza, are lodged in a separate tent, and their meals are regularly sent to them.

On the 2nd Ramazan (May 6th) I heard that Sam Khan and Pasha Khan, with three battalions and three guns, advanced to within eight miles of Herat. Other persons deny this, and pretend that Sam Khan declined to go, as invited by Essan Khan, fearing Essan Khan may retain him as security for the safety of his son, who is a hostage with Prince Sultan Moorad Meerza.

Persons arrived from Candahar report, that some time before his seizure

Mahomed Youssuf Meerza had sent one Mollah Ismael Djedeed (*i. e.*, a converted Mahomedan) on a mission to the British authorities on the Indian frontier; but Dost Mahomed Khan caused him to be murdered on the road.

Translated by
(Signed) RICH. W. STEVENS.

No. 103.

Consul Stevens to the Earl of Clarendon.—(*Received July* 9.)

(Extract.) *Tehran, May* 31, 1856.

I HAVE the honour to inform your Lordship, that Ferokh Khan, a native of Cashan, and holding the office of Keeper of the Shah's Pocket-Money, is to leave Tehran early next month as Ambassador to Paris.

No. 104.

Lord Stratford de Redcliffe to the Earl of Clarendon.—(*Received July* 9.)

(Extract.) *Constantinople, June* 23, 1856.

WHILST I was engaged in carrying out the instructions relating to Persia, and in trying to overcome the difficulties occasioned by Mr. Smythe's indisposition, I received your Lordship's instruction authorizing me to desist from urging the establishment of Meerza Hashem Khan at Shiraz, if the Shah would consent to withdraw his troops from Herat. Soon after I learnt, by advices of later date from Mr. Stevens, that the surrender of Herat to the Persian army had been prematurely reported; but also that the Shah's forces were still in the neighbourhood of that city. It seems, moreover, according to the latest intelligence, that reinforcements were ordered to move on Tehran, with the ulterior intention, it may be presumed, of giving more effect to the plan of attack.

Under these circumstances I thought it desirable to communicate afresh with the Persian Chargé d'Affaires and his Armenian colleague, before I placed in their hands a copy of your Lordship's instructions. Mr. Alison having, in consequence, seen them by my direction, I collected from his report of the interview that, although they had no power to accept definitively any terms of agreement, they were able to form a pretty accurate judgment of such as would not be accepted at Tehran. In general, it was evident that, in their opinion, a modification of your Lordship's demands respecting Meerza Hashem would go far to obtain the satisfaction required from their Government; that the evacuation of Herat by the Shah's forces might be conceded without much hesitation; and that the removal of those two obstacles would smooth the way to an immediate, and even to a cordial, reconciliation.

These impressions have been since confirmed. The two negotiators met me again in conference on the 20th instant, and we parted on an understanding that I would send them a kind of ultimatum, which should comprise the demands of Her Majesty's Government.

Inclosure in No. 104.

Memorandum.

THE Sadr Azim to write in the Shah's name a letter to Mr. Murray, expressing his regret at having uttered and given currency to the offensive imputations upon the honour of Her Majesty's Minister, requesting to withdraw his own letter of the 19th November, and the two letters of the Minister for Foreign Affairs of the 26th November, one of which contains a rescript from the Shah respecting the imputation upon Mr. Murray, and declaring in the same letter that no such further rescript from the Shah as that inclosed herewith in

copy was communicated, directly or indirectly, to any of the foreign Missions at Tehran.

A copy of this letter to be communicated officially by the Sadr Azim to each of the foreign Missions at Tehran, and the substance of it to be made public in that capital.

The original letter to be conveyed to Mr. Murray at Bagdad by the hands of some high Persian officer, and to be accompanied by an invitation to Mr. Murray, in the Shah's name, to return with the Mission to Tehran, on His Majesty's assurance that he shall be received with all the honours and consideration due to the Representative of the British Government, another person of suitable rank being sent to conduct him, as Mehmandar, on his journey through Persia.

Mr. Murray, on approaching the capital, to be received by persons of high rank, deputed to escort him to his residence in the town.

Immediately on his arrival there, the Sadr Azim to go in state to the British Mission, and renew friendly relations with Mr. Murray, leaving the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs to accompany him to the Royal Palace, the Sadr Azim receiving Mr. Murray, and conducting him to the presence of the Shah.

At noon on the following day the British flag to be hoisted under a salute of twenty-one guns, and the Sadr Azim to visit the Mission immediately afterwards, which visit Mr. Murray will return, at latest, on the following day before noon.

Satisfaction being thus given, and friendly relations restored, the settlement of the questions of Herat, of Meerza Hashem and of his wife, remains to be stated.

Should Herat be occupied by the Shah's troops, His Majesty to engage to withdraw them without delay. Should that city be in any way menaced, though not occupied, by the Shah's troops, His Majesty to engage not to allow them to occupy it on any account. In either case, the engagement being solemnly given, the British Mission to defer to His Majesty's wish, if renewed, respecting Meerza Hashem, by not insisting on his appointment at Shiraz; the Meerza's wife, however, to be restored to him, and himself to enjoy the security, emoluments, and position offered by the Persian Government in a former stage of the question.

The whole of the correspondence respecting Meerza Hashem may then be mutually withdrawn and cancelled, it being to be understood that no objections will be made by the Persian Government to the appointment, as heretofore, of a British correspondent at Shiraz, till that and other matters can be finally arranged by a suitable Convention.

No. 105.

Lord Stratford de Redcliffe to the Earl of Clarendon.—(*Received July* 10.)

(Extract.) *Constantinople, June* 28, 1856.

I HAD another meeting yesterday with the Persian Chargé d'Affaires and Malcum Khan. I placed in their hands the memorandum of terms. A Persian translation was added.

No. 106.

The Earl of Clarendon to Mr. Murray.

Sir, *Foreign Office, July* 11, 1856.

I THINK it right to furnish you with copies of a letter which I have addressed to the Sadr Azim respecting Herat, and of an instruction in regard to the delivery of that letter, which I have given to Mr. Consul Stevens.*

* Nos. 107 and 108.

I send you these papers, however, only for your own information, and not that you should take any steps whatever with reference to them.

I am, &c.

(Signed) CLARENDON.

No. 107.

The Earl of Clarendon to the Sadr Azim.

Foreign Office, July 11, 1856.

THE Undersigned, &c., has the honour to recall to the recollection of the Sadr Azim the Articles of Agreement respecting Herat, which were concluded in the month of January 1853, between his Excellency and Lieutenant-Colonel Sheil, then Her Majesty's Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary at the Court of the Shah.

By those Articles the Persian Government engaged not to send on any account troops to Herat, unless when foreign troops invaded Herat, that is (troops) from the direction of Cabul or Candahar, or other foreign country. In the event, too, of troops being sent in that case, the Persian Government engaged that the said troops were not to enter the city of Herat; and whenever the foreign troops returned towards their own territory, the Persian troops were immediately and without delay to return to the Persian soil. The Persian Government also engaged not to interfere in any way whatsoever in the internal affairs of Herat, such as in taking possession, or occupying, or assuming the sovereignty, or in governing, unless in so far as it interfered during the lifetime of Yar Mahomed Khan. The Persian Government also engaged to abandon the pretension and demand for the coinage and the "khootbeh," or any other mark whatsoever of the people of Herat being subjects or under the Government of Persia.

The British Government have been informed that since the beginning of the present year Persian troops have not only invaded the territory of Herat, but have laid siege to the city of Herat, and have interfered in the internal affairs of Herat, and that the movements of troops in different parts of Persia indicate a determination on the part of the Persian Government to persist in its aggression on Herat, and in its disregard of solemn engagements contracted with the British Government.

Such conduct on the part of Persia is considered by the British Government to constitute an act of open hostility against Great Britain; and the object of the Undersigned in now addressing the Sadr Azim is to make known to the Persian Government that unless reparatiou is promptly made by it for this breach of engagement and for this act of hostility, and unless the Persian troops are forthwith withdrawn from the city and territory of Herat, the British Government will adopt such measures as a regard for its own honour and its own interests may prescribe, and will hold itself absolved from any responsibility for the consequences of those measures, however disastrous to Persia they may prove.

The Undersigned, &c. (Signed) CLARENDON.

No. 108.

The Earl of Clarendon to Consul Stevens.

Sir, *Foreign Office, July* 11, 1856.

I INCLOSE a sealed letter to the Sadr Azim.

I also inclose a copy of that letter,* from which you will cause an accurate translation to be made, and you will deliver such translation, together with the sealed letter, to the Sadr Azim as soon as possible.

You will hold no further communication, direct or indirect, or of any kind whatever, with the Sadr Azim, or any person whatever at Tehran, on the subject of that letter; but you may state verbally, on delivering the letter, that the

* No. 107.

messenger who brought it to Tehran will return to Constantinople when he has had time to rest from the fatigues of his outward journey; and you may specify the day on which he will set out, and to which you will adhere.

Except as regards the execution of this instruction, the restriction placed by my despatch of the 15th of May on your intercourse with the Persian Government remains in full force.

I am, &c.
(Signed) CLARENDON.

No. 109.

The Earl of Clarendon to Mr. Vernon Smith.

(Extract.) *Foreign Office, July* 19, 1856.

HER Majesty's Government are of opinion that the Shah has clearly shown that he is determined to persevere in the policy on which he has rashly entered as regards Herat; and as the success of that policy would be opposed to the interests of Great Britain, it appears necessary to lose no time in providing means for compelling the Shah, by coercive measures, to desist from his present schemes of aggrandizement.

Her Majesty's Government, therefore, consider that instructions should at once be sent to the Governor-General of India to collect at Bombay an adequate force of all arms, and provided with the necessary means of transport, for occupying the Island of Karrack and the city and district of Bushire; and to hold such force in readiness to depart from Bombay at the shortest notice. But the Governor-General should be informed that the expedition is not actually to set out until the receipt of further orders from Her Majesty's Government.

No. 110.

Consul Stevens to the Earl of Clarendon.—(Received July 22.)

(Extract.) *Camp near Tehran, June* 4, 1856.

I REGRET having to report to your Lordship the particulars of a gross outrage committed upon Meerza Mootallib, the Persian writer of Her Majesty's Consulate, by a person holding a high position, named Syed Morteza, brother of the late, and uncle, as well as *locum tenens*, of the present, Imaum-o'-Jooma (Chief Priest) of Tehran.

On the 23rd ultimo I received the information.

I repaired to town early on the 24th, and learnt that, in the night of the 22nd, while visiting Syed Morteza, as is customary during the fast month, the Meerza was invited to partake of dinner. A conversation took place between the Syed and some other Persians on the impropriety of Mahomedans serving Europeans. Syed Morteza, throwing some meat to a cat, remarked that feeding cats and dogs was far more meritorious than giving food to Mahomedans who degraded themselves and their religion by taking service with Christians. Upon this the Meerza inquired whether Syed Morteza had invited him to the repast to insult him, or to reproach him for earning his bread with the English; which bread, he observed, was as good as any other. The Syed threw a book at his head, and ordered the attendants to beat him; whereupon the Meerza withdrew from the house, and went to his lodgings in the Consulate. The outrage which followed is detailed in an inclosure, to which I shall presently refer.

A sincere desire to avoid increasing the difficulties already existing between the two Governments induced me, before giving the matter an official character, to afford the Persian Ministers an opportunity of spontaneously granting some sort of reparation, and thus render an appeal to your Lordship unnecessary. With this view, I sent the Mission Treasurer, Mollah Sauleeh, with a verbal message to the Sadr Azim, acquainting him with what had occurred, and expressing a hope that he would do what was needful to prevent a repetition of such disgraceful proceedings. His Highness sent me an assurance, through the Treasurer, that proper satisfaction should be given to me.

Seven days having elapsed without my hearing further from the Sadr Azim, I desired Mollah Sauleeh to write and remind him of his promise.

I have the honour to transmit herewith a translation of his reply, and of its inclosure, an original letter, written to his Highness by Syed Morteza.

The Prime Minister, in his note, affects to treat the whole matter lightly, and declares the Government has no control over the Ulemahs. He advises hushing up the affair, and winds up (as he invariably does when Persians in the British service do not act in accordance with his own views) by attributing improper conduct to Meerza Mootallib.

The letter from the Syed accuses Meerza Mootallib of publicly reviling the Mahomedan religion, a thing perfectly incredible, when it is considered that the pretended offence was given at a religious meeting held in the sacred month of Ramazan; and highly improbable as regards the Meerza, a Syed himself, and a remarkably quiet, inoffensive, and timid man. Syed Morteza's letter, after admitting quite enough to warrant our believing Meerza Mootallib's statement, terminates with an allusion to popular disturbances which may arise if I do not drop the affair, and the danger to which I, consequently, might be exposed.

This threat is written in a different hand to the rest of the letter, and was evidently an afterthought.

I would here beg leave to remark, that, had Meerza Mootallib been really guilty of any improper conduct, custom required that it should be referred to me through the Persian Foreign Office.

On the 31st ultimo I addressed a letter (copy inclosed) to the Minister for Foreign Affairs, containing an outline of the outrage committed on the 22nd, and adding that, as the Prime Minister had distinctly asserted his inability to grant it, my making any demand for reparation would be a useless waste of time; that I should, therefore, submit the case for the consideration of Her Majesty's Government, and, at the same time, report it to the British authorities in the Persian Gulf.

The amount of reparation which it was my intention to propose, had I been consulted, would have been the public punishment of the parties actually engaged in violating the Consular premises, and removing and ill-treating the Meerza, the restitution of the money and property taken from him, a formal apology from Syed Morteza, and some expression of regret at what had occurred from the Persian Government itself.

I trust your Lordship will allow that in this very disagreeable affair I have shown forbearance and moderation under no ordinary provocation; nor can it, I am sure, be denied that I have been met in a far different spirit by the Sadr Azim.

The day after Meerza Mootallib was treated in the manner described, Colonel Materrazzo, a British subject, while on his way, in full uniform, to visit me on the Queen's birthday, was pelted with stones in the immediate vicinity of the Mission-house by the son of the Sadr Azim's Ferrash Bashee. The Colonel having carried his complaint to the Persian Commander-in-chief, my interference was in no manner called for.

Whether we are to look upon these two incidents as tokens of a fixed determination on the part of the Persians to insult us, the future will show. In the meanwhile, it may not be out of place to inform your Lordship that rumours are in circulation that Mr. Murray's departure from Tehran was a mere excuse on the part of the British Government to create an opportunity for interfering with the Mussulman religion in Persia, as that Government is accused here of having recently interfered in Turkey.

Putting aside the Prime Minister's relatives, there are very few Persians in the capital who do not blame the Government in its controversy with Her Majesty's Mission. The most respectable among the clergy, too, declare against the Prime Minister. He feels that their support and countenance will fail him whenever the pending discussion may approach a crisis, and it is by disseminating reports such as that mentioned above, that he hopes to turn the tide of public opinion.

A copy of this despatch will of course be forwarded to Mr. Murray.

Inclosure 1 in No. 110.

Consul Stevens to the Persian Minister for Foreign Affairs.

Goolahek, May 31, 1856.

THE Undersigned, Her Britannie Majesty's Consul in Tehran, has already acquainted his Highness the Sadr Azim with the details of a most unheard-of outrage committed during the night of the 22nd instant, on the premises of the British Consulate, and on the person of its Moonshee, Meerza Mootallib.

Having brought the circumstance in a friendly manner under the notice of the Persian Minister, the Undersigned expected that a proper consideration of what is due to the British Government would have induced the Persian Government to adopt spontaneously, and without delay, measures which would have rendered a recourse to official correspondence unnecessary.

Disappointed in this hope, the Undersigned considers it to be his duty to place before the Persian Ministers in an official form the main points of the case, of which, he feels, he has just reason for serious complaint.

In the middle of the night before mentioned, a person knocked at the door of the British Consulate in Tehran, demanding Meerza Mootallib, saying that his Excelleney Syed Morteza desired to see him. The Meerza had scarcely appeared at the door when he found himself surrounded by a party of twenty or thirty persons, who forcibly dragged him away from the Consulate, severely beat him, rifled his pockets of thirty-two tomauns in cash, and of a packet of papers; some of the clothes he wore were taken from him; violence was employed to make him swallow a quantity of opium; and finally, he was conveyed in almost an insensible state to the house of Syed Morteza, whence he escaped on the 23rd to the residence of his Excellency the Freneh Envoy, who immediately gave the Undersigned notiee of what had happened.

Such is a brief narrative of what occurred, and such is the statement whieh, on the 24th instant, the Undersigned charged the Akhoond Mollah Sauleeh to convey verbally to his Highness the Sadr Azim, who was pleased to promise that the affair should be inquired into, and suitable redress granted.

After waiting eight days for the fulfilment of this promise, the Undersigned has received a note addressed by his Highness the Sadr Azim to the Akhoond Mollah Sauleeh, inclosing one written to his Highness by Syed Morteza, the contents of whieh, especially the concluding lines, evidently added after Syed Morteza had written his note, are intended to intimidate the Undersigned into relinquishing his elaim for reparation, by allusions to popular disturbances which might oeeur if the demand be persisted in, and by the extraordinary admission in the Sadr Azim's note that the Persian Government has no power over the Ulemahs.

No person entertains a higher respect, and no person has, during a long residence in Persia, shown a greater respect for the Ulemahs than the Undersigned; but when a member of that body, however high may be his rank, so far forgets himself as to publicly commit an act, both insulting to the British Government and contrary to the Treaties existing between the two Governments, the Undersigned cannot remain silent, nor will any threats deter him from acting as he may think necessary for upholding the dignity of his Government. He mav here be permitted to remark, for the information of Syed Morteza, and of the Ulemahs generally, that if any foreign Government is entitled to their respeet, it is assuredly the British Government, whieh numbers among its subjects in India millions of Sheeahs, enjoying, both temporarily and spiritually, a greater degree of freedom, protection, and consideration than are enjoyed by their co-religionists in Persia.

The Sadr Azim having in his communication distinctly asserted the inability of the Persian Government to grant adequate reparation for the insult in question, it would be a useless waste of time for the Undersigned to demand any.

It therefore only remains for the Undersigned to forward by couriers leaving in a few days, a detailed statement of this affair to Her Britannic Majesty's Government, and to the British authorities in the Persian Gulf; he will accompany it by the Sadr Azim's written declaration that the Persian Government is unable to prevent the violation of the British Consulate, or to save British

subjects and dependents residing in the capital of Persia, the seat of royalty, from being arbitrarily seized, ill-treated, robbed, and poisoned; and it will be for the British Government to consider what steps it may be necessary to adopt for securing to its agents and dependents in Persia the respect and protection to which they are entitled both by usage and by existing Treaties.

In requesting that this letter may be communicated to his Highness the Prime Minister, the Undersigned, &c.

(Signed) RICH. W. STEVENS.

Inclosure 2 in No. 110.

The Sadr Azim to Akhoond Mollah Sauleeh.

(Translation.)

I HAVE perused the letter which you have written to me regarding the affair between the Very Exalted, &c., Syed Morteza, brother of the late Imaum-o'-Jooma, and Meerza Mootallib.

You are yourself acquainted with the character and the conduct of the Persian Mollahs towards our Government, and towards everybody else in Persia; and you know that we do not possess that power over them which we ought to have; at any rate, we are obliged to be cautious in dealing with them.

I have given myself a great deal of trouble about this affair, written strong letters, and sent Meerza Abbas Khan two or three times to them (the Mollahs), and the discussion is even now continued on both sides.

I send you the answer which they have written, in order that you may show it to the high in rank, &c., the Consul.

I have not yet given up this matter, and will let you know what I may have done, or may do; but it is nevertheless necessary that you should not take it so seriously, and that you settle it in some way or other, because Meerza Mootallib is a person having neither talent nor tact: several times he misbehaved himself towards his Excellency the Minister for Foreign Affairs. With regard to the report that Syed Morteza held improper language about the English Government, it is unfounded—all a falsehood. Meerza Mootallib perhaps has done well. I ask you not to persist in this affair, but term in it as soon as possible.

Inclosure 3 in No. 110.

Seyd Morteza to the Sadr Azim.

(Translation.)

IT is represented that you have addressed us a letter concerning the pretension of Meerza Mootallib, the nephew of Agha Syed Hussein, and an employé of the British Government.

From time immemorial it has been the custom that, during the whole year, religious meetings are held at our house every Thursday, which are attended by the poor, and the clerical students and others. That night, after prayers, the aforesaid presented himself, without being invited. Some of those who remained, knowing him to be a Syed, desired to give him advice. Among other things it was said that it was a pity that a Syed, and a descendant of the Imaum Moussa, should lay aside his turban, wear long curls, and from morning to evening employ himself in saying and hearing absurd words.

In withdrawing to another room, he replied by unbecoming remarks about several who were present, and others of much higher rank. In consideration of the friendship between the two Governments I took no notice; it was those who were present who answered him. A second time, with a tongue of impudence, and the mouth of irreligion, he used blasphemous language, which so exasperated them that they could not contain themselves.

It was then I gave orders to strike and turn him out. This is what occurred in my presence. When he was outside he used still worse language, and went away. It being near the morning, and many devout persons arriving for prayers, these circumstances became known; the mob went to his lodging to drag him

before the high judge, that sentence might be passed upon him, and then referred to your Excellency (the Sadr Azim) for execution. When I learnt this fact, I understood that a popular commotion might result, and I sent two or three intelligent persons to prevent it, and to save him from ill-treatment. Very probably their firm attachment to the true faith led them to other acts against him: this is possible. They met him *en route*, and summoned him to the house of the uncle,* when the mob was dispersed, hoping, with the aid of God, that the affair would pass over by mid-day. The crowd once dispersed, I desired him to go home and not leave the house, lest some disturbance should happen.

Everybody knows that in the time when Syed Hussein was in Tehran, I was acquainted with the bad conduct of Meerza Mootallib, and dismissed him from my house.

As you say that some of the people present spoke ill of the foreign Missions, I swear to you it is a falsehood, invented to palliate his misconduct.

This is what passed, and I write it accordingly: for the rest, you are at liberty to act as you think proper; the affair and its judgment are in your hands.

Salutation.

(Then follows, in a different handwriting) :—

I add that, considering our friendship for and union with the Government (English), you will tell the Consul not to retain this seditious man in his service. Let him dismiss him; otherwise from this (the affair under discussion), great disturbances may break out against his own person, disturbances which it will, perhaps, be quite impossible to put down. You wrote to me that the man came with an invitation, but he is not a person worthy of being invited.

This affair occurred in the tenth hour of the night. Had it occurred during the day there would undoubtedly have been a revolution, and matters would not have passed off so quietly.

I have nothing further to add.

No. 111.

Consul Stevens to the Earl of Clarendon.—(*Received July* 22.)

My Lord, *Camp near Tehran, June* 7, 1856.

I HAVE the honour to inform your Lordship that the Persian Government has received news of the destruction, by an accidental explosion, of all the ammunition of the Persian army before Herat, most of which, amounting to several hundred loads, had only just reached the army: 350 men were killed by the explosion. Much discontent prevailed among the troops, and bread was with difficulty attainable in the camp at the enormously high price of 3 kerrans per maun—3*s*. per 6 lbs.

Two hundred loads of gunpowder have just been dispatched from Tehran, and 400 loads are to follow in a few days.

It is reported in town that, after the ammunition was destroyed, the Heratees made a sortie, and committed great havoc among the Persians, who, it is said, lost several superior officers on the occasion.

I have, &c.

(Signed) RICH. W. STEVENS.

No. 112.

Mr. Murray to the Earl of Clarendon.—(*Received July* 22.)

(Extract.) *Bagdad, June* 21, 1856.

I AM well aware that the Sadr Azim has endeavoured throughout to make the world believe that the whole of the difference between the Persian Court and this Mission was owing to the affair of Meerza Hashem Khan's wife. He well knew that such a scandal, however unfounded, would find a certain amount of

* Syed Morteza himself.

credence, and provoke a certain amount of ridicule in Europe. He remembered the Eastern proverb, "Throw mud upon the wall, some of it will stick." He cared nothing for the scandal which he brought upon the Royal Harem, so long as he could succeed in his main object, that of embroiling Her Majesty's Mission with the Shah. It was for that reason that he seized and imprisoned the Meerza's wife, instead of seizing the Meerza himself, who was daily passing and repassing from his own house to the Mission. Notwithstanding that I entered on the discharge of my duties with an earnest desire to be upon the best and most friendly terms with the Shah and his Minister, I found my intentions thwarted by the latter at the very threshold, by his forbidding Persians of rank and in office from paying me those visits which they had habitually paid to my predecessors. I was to see with his eyes and to hear with his ears, and thus to be precluded from obtaining correct information as to what was going forward in the social and political world of Persia.

Scarcely can it be necessary for me to recall to your Lordship's recollection the repeated slights and affronts, of greater and less importance, which the Sadr offered to the Mission, and which are related in my public correspondence of last year. My servants were maltreated; the rights of British subjects invaded, and reparation was always refused or evaded; the Mission was, for the first time this century, refused admission to the national festival of the Tazieh, which, although justly designated in your Lordship's despatch as an "unmeaning ceremony," is, nevertheless, looked upon in quite a different light in Tehran, where there was not a Persian, either of the higher or lower class, who did not view it as a slight offered to, or a triumph gained over, the British Mission.

Another step taken by the Sadr, was to rake up again the old affair of Prince Ferhad Meerza, which had already, once before, interrupted the amicable relations between the Persian Court and the British Mission. The Prince was living in retirement; I had not the slightest wish nor motive to moot the question of His Royal Highness's claims to our protection, and I only wished that the Persian Government should leave him quiet and unmolested in his own house. This did not suit the Sadr's views, who began to annoy and calumniate the Prince because he paid me two or three visits, and at length carried his persecution so far as to compel me to interfere. The Sadr almost pushed that affair to a rupture; but the firm attitude which I assumed, supported by your Lordship's despatches, compelled him to abandon that ground and wait for another opportunity, when he might hope to pick a quarrel on some question more advantageous to his purpose.

My despatches, in the months of November and December of last year, reported to your Lordship in full all the proceedings of the Sadr in respect to the affair of Meerza Hashem Khan, and it is not now necessary for me to recapitulate their contents, further than to observe that I can confidently appeal to your Lordship, and ask whether my despatches to the Sadr were not couched in the usual language of diplomatic courtesy, and whether I ever mentioned the Shah in other terms than those becoming His Majesty's station? Your Lordship will also bear witness that the calumnies propagated against me, and included in official despatches addressed to me, both on the part of the Shah and his Minister, were couched in terms of coarse vituperation, unexampled in diplomatic correspondence; it would seem that the Persian Court had lost all sense of propriety and self-respect when the Shah could write with his own hand that, "until the Queen of England had apologised to him, he would not receive either me or any other British Minister." About the same time, a high command was given to a Prince of the blood, who, at a dinner given by Meerza Moossa, the Deputy Governor of Tehran, mentioned Her Majesty's name in language too indecorous to be repeated.

Comparing the conduct of the Sadr with the animus by which he was evidently actuated, I should have been ashamed of myself had I consented to remain in Tehran without obtaining the reparation due for such repeated insults.

I come now to consider the terms of reparation which I offered to the acceptance of the Persian Government.

In demanding that the Meerza should be recognized as British Agent at Shiraz, I merely upheld the right of the Mission to avail itself of the services of any unemployed Persian, without asking the permission of the Persian Government—a right hitherto enjoyed undisputedly by the foreign Missions

in Tehran; a right too, which must be maintained unless Her Majesty's Government are content that every Persian employé and servant of the Mission is to be a paid spy of the Persian Ministers. I proved that the Sadr's allegation of that individual being still in the Persian service and in the army list, was entirely unfounded; and I appointed him accordingly, under your Lordship's instructions. Then followed the seizure and imprisonment of the Meerza's wife; after he had vainly endeavoured to obtain her release, I applied officially that she should be restored to her husband, which was refused.

It has been stated that the Mission was not justified in demanding the restoration of the Meerza's wife to her husband, as, according to the Moslem law, the Shah, being not only the Sovereign, but also the head of the Sheeah branch of Islam, could at his own pleasure separate man and wife without rendering account in any quarter.

The Shah may, indeed, assume any power and silence any opposition by force in his own dominion; but without the consent of the parties he has no legal right whatever to separate man and wife, unless in cases of proved adultery, and in those it is always the sentence of the Mooshtehids (chiefs of religion), and not that of the Shah, which dissolves the bond. At the very time that I demanded the restitution of that lady to her husband, he had in his pocket, and produced to those who detained her, a sentence signed by two of the chief Mooshtehids, to the effect that her forcible detention from her husband, as well as all attempts to divorce her without his consent, were illegal acts.

I come now to the demand which I made, that the Sadr Azim should come in person to the Mission to retract and withdraw the offensive and calumnious charges which he had brought against me. I believe it has been represented to your Lordship that such a proceeding would be compromising the dignity of the Vizirial office, and humiliating to the Persian Government. Independently of the general proposition, which applies in this instance both to the Shah and his Minister, that those who so far forget their own position as to condescend to detraction and calumny, cannot expect others to be tender of a dignity which they have themselves sacrificed, the reparation which I demanded was strictly based upon precedent at the Persian Court. Your Lordship will find on reference to Colonel Sheil's despatch of the 24th of April, 1850, that the late Ameer Nizam, the proudest and most powerful Vizier of modern times, came in person to the Mission to apologise to Her Majesty's Envoy for insults offered to Her Majesty's Consul at Tabreez. If Her Majesty's Mission demanded and received that reparation for affronts offered to a British Consul by the local Persian authorities, I consider that I was, *à fortiori*, entitled to demand it for insults offered directly to myself by the Prime Minister in person. It is a curious coincidence, my Lord, that the present Sadr, then occupying a subordinate situation, was mainly instrumental in inducing the Ameer Nizam to give the required satisfaction.

In respect to the expressions used respecting me in the Shah's autograph letters, which were even more injurious and offensive than those used by the Sadr, I simply demanded that an officer of rank should be sent on the part of the Shah to withdraw the offensive documents and express regret that they should have been written under misapprehension. I believe this demand has been represented to your Lordship as compromising the Royal dignity. I cannot adopt this view, nor do I see how the Representative of a foreign Power could have demanded or accepted a smaller measure of reparation. Had I been disposed to expose the Shah to humiliation, I might have demanded an apology such as that made by His Majesty to Prince Dolgorouki in 1849, in full Divan, and in the presence of the British Mission and of all the Persian officials; and I demanded the smallest amount of reparation consistent with the honour of Her Majesty's Mission.

It remains only to consider my demand that the Mollahs should come to the Mission and withdraw the calumnious and offensive paper to which their seals were affixed. This has been represented by the Sadr as impossible, as degrading to the sacred office they fill. We are told that no Mooshtehid can be expected to come to a Christian house, and many similar phrases. My Lord, the simple meaning of this tortuous and unsubstantial argument is that the Prime Minister of Persia is to be at liberty at any time to use the religious body as political instruments or propagators of his own falsehoods; through them, and under the ægis of their sanctity, he may calumniate a foreign Power,

traduce its Mission, and insult its representative; when he wishes to use them as a tool, he obliges them to put their seals to any paper which he presents for their signature; not one in twenty has the courage to refuse, or even to inquire whether its contents are true or false. When reparation is demanded, the sacredness of their office is ostentatiously paraded, and the Sadr informs us that any apology or retractation on the part of that holy assemblage would be subversive of religion and of the state.

Leaving this puerile subterfuge to be dealt with by your Lordship's discrimination, I thus conclude my review of the reparation which I demanded, and I fearlessly leave it to Her Majesty's Government to decide upon the justice of my demands.

Since I left Tehran the disposition of the Persian Government towards England has been evinced in more ways than one: an expedition against Herat and Candahar has been organised and put in execution under the orders of the very Prince by whom Her Majesty's name was shamefully traduced; all the ports and provinces in the south of Persia have been placed in a posture of defence; France and the United States have both been invited to station a maritime force in the Gulf; the Consul's residence in Tehran has been beset day and night by spies, and no Persian is permitted to have any communication with him; pensions due to British subjects have been arbitrarily stopped; an officer in the Persian service, under British protection, going in full uniform to visit the Consul on the Queen's birthday, has been pelted in the public streets by the son of a Persian official of rank;* and the Consul's Meerza has been dragged out of the Consulate, beaten in the streets, and forcibly drugged with opium by the servants of one of the chiefs of religion; while, to crown the whole, the Persian Government has published in the official "Gazette" of Tehran a long article calumniating the British Government, and abusing every single British Envoy who has had charge of the Mission for the last thirty years.

Such, my Lord, has been the conduct of a Minister who owes his life and the post which he fills to that very Mission which he is endeavouring to vilify and degrade, and who now has the assurance to send his Russo-Armenian Secretary to Constantinople to assure Her Majesty's Ambassador of his constant friendship for England, and to persuade his Lordship that the rupture with the Mission was occasioned solely by a trifling misunderstanding about a Meerza and his wife.

No. 113.

Consul Stevens to the Earl of Clarendon.—(*Received July* 24.)

My Lord, *Camp near Tehran, June* 15, 1856.

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your Lordship's despatch of the 15th May, informing me that Mr. Murray had been directed to proceed to Bagdad, and there await further orders; that I was nevertheless to remain at Tehran, but to have no communication whatever with the Persian Government on political matters, confining myself strictly to my Consular functions of protecting the trading interests of British subjects.

I shall be careful to attend to this instruction, an unavoidable deviation from which, however, arising probably from Lord Stratford's ignorance of the instruction in question, occurred yesterday, as your Lordship will learn from the inclosed copy of a despatch this day addressed by me to his Excellency, in which I report what passed at an interview which I demanded of the Prime Minister, for the purpose of delivering, as Lord Stratford directed me to do, a letter to his Highness' address.

I have, &c.
(Signed) RICH. W. STEVENS.

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* The Sadr Azim's Ferrash Bashee.

Inclosure in No. 113.

Consul Stevens to Lord Stratford de Redcliffe.

(Extract.) *Camp near Tehran, June* 15, 1856.

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt, on the 13th instant, of your Excellency's despatch of the 25th ultimo,* inclosing a letter for the Persian Prime Minister, and directing me to deliver it to his Highness, with a translation thereof in the Persian language.

I lost no time in preparing the latter document (copy of which is transmitted herewith), nor in seeking an interview with his Highness for the purpose directed in your Excellency's despatch, and an early hour yesterday having been appointed, I waited upon him, and put both the letter and translation into his hands, saying that the express messenger by whom the packet was brought from Erzeroom would return with his Highness' answer whenever it might reach me.

After reading the translation several times, the Minister informed me that he would write and send his answer to me in a few days; adding, that Ferokh Khan, the recently appointed Persian Envoy to Paris, who has not yet left Tehran, has been fully empowered and instructed to enter upon the proposed negotiations with your Lordship.

Her Majesty's Secretary of State having desired me to hold no direct or indirect communication with the Persian Government on political matters, I was anxious to take an early leave of the Sadr Azim, in order to avoid what I felt sure would happen if I prolonged my visit, viz., a reference to the conditions stated in your Excellency's despatch as being essential to the successful issue of the negotiations at Constantinople. But before I could, consistently with the customs of the country, decently quit his Highness, he entered on the subject, and I could not then help listening to him without appearing to treat him with rudeness. He said that, in regard to the first condition laid down by your Excellency, the Persian Government could not well subscribe to it without being previously made acquainted with the nature of the demands which Her Majesty's Government contemplated bringing forward. That anything satisfactory to the British Government, and, at the same time, not humiliating to the Persian Government, would undoubtedly be frankly accepted. On the second condition, the relinquishment of all intention to occupy Herat, the Prime Minister was more explicit. He declared that the Shah cannot and will not submit to the wishes of the British Government, unless the latter formally engages to guarantee His Persian Majesty from any territorial aggressions on the part of Dost Mahomed Khan, besides compelling that Affghan Chief to restore Candahar to the family of Kohendil Khan. His Highness went on to observe, that if the Persian Government has acted in opposition to the Anglo-Persian Convention about Herat, it was compelled to the step by the prior infringement of that compact by Mr. Thomson, whose letters in support of this accusation, the Prime Minister added, he would be ready to produce at the proper time. I ventured on remarking, what I believe to be the case, that the letters in question are impudent forgeries; to which the Minister replied, that not only were they genuine, but that he is in a position to prove other transactions of an unfriendly character between Mr. Thomson and Syed Mahomed, the late Ruler of Herat.

No. 114.

Consul Stevens to the Earl of Clarendon.—(Received July 29.)

(Extract.) *Camp near Tehran, June* 16, 1856.

SOON after the date of my despatch to your Lordship of the 4th instant, in which I reported the particulars of a gross outrage committed upon the Consular premises in Tehran, I received a visit from two respectable merchants in the confidence of the Sadr Azim, and of a third merchant, an intimate acquaintance of Agha Syed Morteza, the former being sent by the Prime Minister to request

* Inclosure 2 in No. 95.

me to withdraw my letter of the 31st May to the Minister for Foreign Affairs (copy of which has been transmitted to your Lordship), and to accept his Highness' assurance that Agha Syed Morteza had been ordered to grant me a suitable reparation; the latter saying he came to express the Syed's regret at what had occurred, and to ascertain from me the nature of the satisfaction which I required.

To the request of the Sadr Azim that I should withdraw my letter, I returned a flat refusal, it being, I said, an unusual proceeding in such circumstances.

To Agha Syed Morteza's question, I answered that I expected, first, a visit from him to apologize for his part in the outrage complained of; secondly, the restitution to Meerza Mootallib of the money and effects taken from him on the occasion referred to; and lastly, the punishment of the parties engaged in ill-treating him, and forcibly removing him from the Consulate.

It was contended that the position of Agha Syed Morteza, as *locum tenens* of the High Priest, rendered his visiting Europeans inconsistent with the customs of the country. Although I declined to admit the validity of this argument, I waived the point, and substituted for the first demand above-mentioned, that the Syed should write a note to the Prime Minister expressing his regret at the occurrence, which note the Prime Minister would send to me, accompanied by a written apology on the part of the Persian Government for the insult offered to Her Majesty's Consulate.

The emissaries, knowing I had a courier leaving for Bagdad with my report of the affair to Mr. Murray, requested me to postpone his departure for five or six days, before which they promised that my second proposal should be taken into consideration, and, they hoped, accepted.

I heard nothing further from any quarter until the expiration of the term mentioned, and then instead of receiving the favourable answer which I had been led to expect, I got a letter, couched in the most uncivil terms, from the Minister for Foreign Affairs, a translation of which I transmit herewith for your Lordship's information.

I also subjoin a copy of my rejoinder, in which, after observing on two or three passages in the Minister's letter, I intimated to the Persian Government that having submitted the case for your Lordship's decision, I should not prolong the discussion, which I closed by formally protesting against the whole proceeding.

A mutual friend called upon Agha Syed Morteza, and recommended him to grant the redress I had proposed. The Syed said he was perfectly willing to do so, but he had received contrary orders from the Sadr Azim, who told him this matter might remain over, and be added to the "long unsettled account" already pending between the two Governments. He likewise, on being reproached for threatening me with a popular tumult, admitted that that passage had been dictated to him by the Prime Minister; an assertion which receives confirmation from the repetition of the menace in the letter from the Foreign Department.

The Prime Minister pretends that the house where the outrage was committed cannot be considered a Consulate, because the consent of the Persian Government was not previously obtained to its purchase, and this pretension, his Highness verbally informed me, is founded on the Russo-Persian Treaty of Turcomanchai. The following is the Article of that Treaty applicable to the case under consideration, and with the precise wording of the stipulation before you, your Lordship will be able to judge how far the Sadr Azim is borne out in his argument:—

"Article V, Traité du Commerce, conclu à Turcomanchai le 10 Février, 1828.—Attendu que d'après les usages existants en Perse, il est difficile pour les sujets étrangers de trouver à louer des maisons, magasins ou emplacements propres au dépôt de leur marchandises, il est permis aux sujets Russes en Perse, non-seulement de louer, mais aussi d'acquérir en toute propriété des maisons pour les habiter, et des magasins. ainsi que des emplacements pour y déposer leurs marchandises. Les employés du Gouvernement Persan ne pourront entrer de force dans les dites maisons, magasins, ou emplacements, à moins de recourir en cas de nécessité à l'autorisation du Ministre, ou du Chargé d'Affaires, ou du Consul de Russie, lesquels délégueront un employé ou dragoman pour assister à la visite de la maison ou des marchandises."

If any Russian subject is permitted to buy a house to reside in, I presume a similar right may be claimed by the British Government for its Consuls in Persia; nor will the Persian Government be permitted, I trust, to deny to Her Majesty's Consulates that degree of inviolability which, in the same Article, the Treaty secures to the residence of a simple Russian trader.

The Sadr Azim has addressed a circular to the foreign Legations here, communicating copies of my first letter, and of the answer I received to it. I have seen the chiefs of the various Missions since they received the circular. The Russian and Ottoman Chargés d'Affaires entirely adopt my view of the question, and one, if not both, counselled the Sadr Azim to grant the redress I had demanded. M. Bourré admitted both the justice and the moderation of the demand, but advised me not to " précipiter les choses."

June 20. — The " Tehran Government Gazette" which appeared this morning contains an article announcing the murder of a British Consul in Marash, in consequence of his having offended the Mussulman clergy of that place. I need scarcely draw your Lordship's notice to the peculiar significancy of such a publication, distributed for the occasion, just at a moment when the Sadr Azim is threatening me with popular commotions, &c.

Inclosure 1 in No. 114.

The Persian Minister for Foreign Affairs to Consul Stevens.

(Translation.) 4 *Shaban*, 1272. (*June* 11, 1856.)

THE letter which you have addressed to me about Meerza Mootallib has reached me, and has been laid before his Highness the Sadr Azim. Truly speaking, the contents of this letter have caused the very greatest surprise, because they are founded on the statement of the Meerza himself, he being himself the complainant and accuser; he who on several occasions has shown that neither his words nor his actions are worthy of confidence. In consequence of this want of good sense, and absence of mind, he was for some time treated for a disordered mind, in order to prevent mistakes occurring in his proceedings connected with the Consulate and the Ministry for Foreign Affairs, or doing that which might be contrary to usage, and thus create embarrassment to both parties. Several times he behaved improperly, and I requested you not to employ him with your messages or writings, and other things, in order that harmony in the arrangement of the affairs with the Consulate might be maintained; but you have all along persisted in demanding everything through Meerza Mootallib. What confidence can be placed in the words of such a person? Your letter, which was written by him,* shows, from beginning to end, how he has distorted the truth in this affair. The case is as stated in detail by his Excellency, &c., the Syed Morteza, in his letter to the Ministers of the Persian Government, without there being any doubt or any fact to repeat. You, yourself, judge between that statement and Meerza Mootallib's, and you will understand if there is anything in common (between it) and the details as given by Meerza Mootallib through his stupidity, and from a feeling of revenge.

You also say that in the Sedr Azim's letter to Mollah Sauleeh, it was stated, in your opinion, that the subjects of the British Government did not enjoy personal security in this kingdom. This also is a subject of great astonishment to the Persian Ministers. In the first place, when did such a letter reach you? It would be well to allow us to see it, so that we may also know its contents. Secondly, what uncertainty can you feel about the safety of the subjects of your Government? What greater proof of this safety can be more valuable than in past events? For many years the English Ambassadors and Consuls have, thank God, been preserved from all unlucky accidents; not only in the capital, but also in the provinces, they have continued to enjoy the most loyal protection. So it is now, and so it will be in future. They have always held friendly intercourse with the Mollahs, and have always been shown the respect due to their rank; above all, they have had intercourse with the family of the Imaum-o'-Jooma, and other Mollahs of the capital, and all such Mollahs have shown their

* The letter was written in English, and the translation only copied by Meerza Mootallib.— R. W. S.

respect in a becoming manner for the Agents of the British Government. Never has any British Agent treated, as you have done, with such open contempt, the learned Ulemahs, and especially his Excellency Syed Morteza. Notwithstanding these circumstances, the Persian Ministers, after careful examination, cannot find any valid motive for your reasoning, unless you are searching for excuses, and that you wish to invent words, and thus cause discussion, all which the Persian Government undoubtedly considers unbecoming; and the British Government will not approve of your attributing to the Mollahs of our religion proceedings which are unfounded.

You have likewise written that Meerza Mootallib was seized in the English Consulate. This is a falsehood invented by him; he is living in the house of the woman merchant,* which house has nothing to do with the English Consulate. In the next place he was not forcibly removed, for it is possible he himself intended to go to the house of his Excellency Syed Morteza. After all, Meerza Mootallib, Ispahance, has two brothers, who are at present in the service of Syed Morteza, and from time immemorial have been attached to his family; besides, if from his want of sense he spoke unbecoming words in the presence of his Excellency Syed Morteza, and against the priests of the religion, he is, according to our sacred laws, subject to punishment. Nevertheless, his Excellency contented himself with expelling him from his house. The present is not a time for the Persian Government and the English Consuls and subjects to forego the same friendly intercourse, or to cease granting the usual protection or showing the same consideration. If you are ill-informed, inquire of the high-priests for information on our laws, and you will learn what punishment is due to a Mussulman who publicly reviles the religion, especially in the presence of a highly venerated priest. When a want of respect is shown to the sacred laws, and to the Holy Judges, and that the Ulemahs pass sentence, can their judgment be set aside? Albeit, be assured that all these things did not happen, and it was not worth your while to mention them. Thank God, nothing of the kind happened; the affair occurred exactly as his Excellency Syed Morteza reported it, and as we have communicated it. It is necessary you should caution him (the Meerza) not to show contempt in future for the sacred laws, and that you yourself should not depart from that friendship which you are aware the English Government and its Agents have invariably entertained for the Ulemahs and the holy religion; and, moreover, that you do nought which is contrary to the religion, so that, please God, nothing disagreeable may happen to you.

In all such affairs, and under extraordinary circumstances, the testimony, the learning, and the counsels of the Ulemahs have been, and ever will be, received as authoritative. Never, since foreign Agents commenced holding friendly intercourse with the Persian Government, did it happen that an Agent rejected (questioned) the learning and testimony of a person like Syed Morteza, the defender of the law, on the words of a nameless individual, and one unworthy of consideration, like Meerza Mootallib. The English Ministers have ever set the example to foreign Agents of that respect and consideration due to the Ulemahs of this kingdom, and especially to the family of the Imaum-o'-Jooma. The British Government and the former British Ministers (in Persia) will certainly view with astonishment the novel manner in which you have conducted yourself in this affair. I ask you as a friend to act hereafter according to good sense, and to your experience, and not to be influenced by words which have no foundation; and, finally, to close your eyes to the proceeding.

Inclosure 2 in No. 114.

Consul Stevens to the Persian Minister for Foreign Affairs.

A PRESS of business has prevented the Undersigned, Her Britannic Majesty's Consul in Tehran, from earlier acknowledging the receipt of the letter from his Excellency the Minister for Foreign Affairs, replying to one which the Undersigned addressed to his Excellency on the 31st May, complaining of a gross outrage committed, on the 22nd, on the person of his Meerza, and on the premises of the British Consulate.

* She sold it to the British Mission for a Consulate in November 1855.

Having reported the occurrence to Her Britannic Majesty's Government, the Undersigned does not consider himself at liberty to prolong the discussion on this disagreeable affair. He cannot, however, help observing—

First. That Meerza Mootallib has been eighteen months in the service of the Undersigned, during which he has been called upon every day, and at all hours of the day and night, to discharge his duties, and the Undersigned has never observed that the Meerza was subject to mental alienation, as stated in his Excellency's letter.

Secondly. The Prime Minister, having evidently forgotten what he wrote Akhoond Mollah Sauleeh, the Undersigned transmits herewith a copy of his Highness' note, for the information of the Persian Government.

Thirdly. With regard to the house from which Meerza Mootallib was forcibly removed, and which in his letter of the 31st May the Undersigned called the British Consulate, he has to remark that it was purchased for a Consulate, and occupied as such by the Undersigned eight months ago; and further, that Her Majesty's Government having paid for the premises eight months ago, it will be in a position to judge whether they are really the British Consulate, or, as his Excellency in his letter affirms, the property of the woman merchant.

Finally. The Undersigned would beg leave to observe, that after the verbal communication he received on the 5th instant from his Highness the Sadr Azim, through Hagee Mahomed Rahem and Hagee Syed Nessvoollah, and also a communication which reached him through Hagee Abdul Azim from Agha Syed Morteza, he entertained some hope of seeing this discussion brought to a satisfactory termination. He has, therefore, perused, with no less surprise than regret, the contents of the letter of his Excellency the Minister for Foreign Affairs.

The Undersigned, in closing a correspondence the decision upon which now rests with Her Majesty's Government, finally protests against the outrage of the 22nd May, as being a proceeding contrary to usage, to existing Treaties, and contrary to the respect due to Her Britannic Majesty's Government.

(Signe) RICH. W. STEVENS.

No. 115.

Consul Stevens to the Earl of Clarendon.—(*Received July* 29.)

My Lord, *Camp near Tehran, June* 20, 1856.

I HAVE the honour to inclose, for your Lordship's information, a narrative, translated from the Persian, of events in Herat, drawn up from the verbal statement of a native of that place, who recently came to Tehran with letters to the Herat Envoy, and whose intelligence, when questioned, so struck me, that I was induced to ask him to allow my Meerza to take the statement in writing, especially when I found that most of his information was confirmed by what has reached me from other sources.

Your Lordship will see it asserted in the latter part of the narrative, that Essan Khan has hoisted the English flag on the Char-baugh, a house formerly occupied by the East India Company's Resident in Herat, where he has also lodged a person represented to the natives as being an Envoy from the British Government. A report to the same effect, only the acts were attributed to Shahzadeh Mahomed Youssuf, had reached the Governor-General of India from the British Commissioner in the Punjab, and his Lordship in Council has instructed me, through the Bombay Government, to disclaim to the Persian Government all knowledge of either the pretended Envoy, or the hoisting of the flag.

Your Lordship's instructions, however, forbid my holding any communication with the Persian Government on such a subject; I shall, therefore, confine myself to denying in whatever quarters I may hear the circumstances mentioned, that the British authorities in India have had participation in the acts above mentioned.

I have, &c.

(Signed) RICH. W. STEVENS.

Inclosure in No. 115.

Narrative of Events in Herat.

A MONTH before the festival of Noorooz (21st March), Sam Khan, who had been invited by Shahzadeh Mahomed Youssuf to come, with 1,000 horsemen, in the capacity of Envoy, arrived and took up his quarters in the new citadel, accompanied by a force of 2,000 men. The townspeople, on seeing so large a number of troops with the Elkhanee, became alarmed, and soon expelled him, when he retired to the garden called Baugh Shahzadeh Malik Kassim, where he remained about twenty days. Thence he was also expelled. He withdrew to a distance of eight fursukhs, and was joined by Pasha Khan, Serteep, with whom he proceeded to Ghorian. Prince Sultan Moorad Meerza in the meanwhile arrived, and they laid siege to Ghorian. The siege lasted twenty days, during which several actions (probably skirmishes) were fought. Serdar Ahmed Khan, Noorallah Khan, Koollar Agassee, Naib Moorad Aly, Naib Aly Jan, and Attaoollah Khan Tambaree and Shahzadeh Muhsin, left Herat to assist Ghorian. Attaoollah Khan, who was secretly understood with Shahzadeh Mahomed Youssuf, deserted the party and went over to Sultan Moorad Meerza. In a fight, Naibs Aly Jan and Moorad Aly shot the horse of Serdar Ahmed Khan so that he might be easily captured by the Persians, and then returned to Herat, leaving 200 Affghans prisoners with the Persians and 60 killed. The people of Ghorian, after consuming 70 camel-loads of ammunition, and killing 200 of Sultan Moorad Meerza's men, could hold out no longer; they surrendered, and Sultan Moorad Meerza took possession of the place.

After taking Ghorian, the army advanced upon Herat. On the second day after it arrived, the people quitted the town to offer battle; but were recalled by Mahomed Youssuf. On the third day, however, they refused to obey him, went out of town, and engaged the Persians, who lost 200 men in killed, and 70 prisoners, together with the colours of the Nishapoor regiment, and 30 wall-pieces taken from Sam Khan's division. The prisoners were released, and, with the colours, sent back to the army by Mahomed Youssuf.

The Jamshedee and other tribes, who had come to assist the Heratees, were summoned by Shahzadeh Mahomed Youssuf, and ordered to return to their homes. On hearing this, the Heratees and Affghans became suspicious of Mahomed Youssuf, who clearly sought to surrender the place to the Kajjars. Many quitted Herat and went to Kohistan. Shahzadeh Mahomed Youssuf was anxious for an arrangement; he sent a person to Sultan Moorad Meerza to ascertain his conditions. The Prince demanded that the sons of the Chief Sirdar be delivered to him to be sent to Tehran as hostages. Shahzadeh Mahomed Youssuf accepted, and sent his own brother, with the sons of the Sirdars and two pieces of artillery, which had once belonged to the Persians. After these hostages reached Sultan Moorad Meerza, he intimated that if the Heratees would allow 1,000 Persian troops to occupy the place and citadel, and also strike coin and read the Friday prayer in the name of the Shah, he would withdraw his army. Shahzadeh Mahomed Youssuf replied, that several of the notables would not submit, and he recommended the Prince to retire his army to Ghorian until means were found for seizing the parties who were opposed to the Persians; after that the Persians might return and do as the Prince desired. Sultan Moorad Meerza agreed, and accordingly withdrew the army to Bernabad. Shahzadeh Mahomed Youssuf ordered Hagee Gholaum Khan to go into the citadel and murder Essan Khan, and Hagee Gholaum Khan directed his people to pick a quarrel with Essan Khan's followers, so that when they were occupied he might attack their master as ordered. Hagee Gholaum Khan discharged a pistol at Essan Khan, but only wounded him slightly; upon which Essan Khan ordered him to be arrested, and then, seizing also Shahzadeh Mahomed Youssuf, Pir Mahomed Khan, and others, in all forty-two persons, known to be friendly to the Persians, expelled them from the town, and sent them to the camp of Sultan Moorad Meerza.

The Jewish, Hindoo, and Persian communities were each called upon by Essan Khan to furnish 3,000 tomauns. On receiving these 9,000 tomauns, he hoisted the English flag on the Char-baugh, Danlettee Kazee Mollah Mehmed Hassan, formerly in the service of the English Resident, assisting at

the ceremony. At about this time a person reached Furrah, on his way from India. Essan Khan sent a flag and 800 horsemen to escort him, and thus make the people believe this man was an Envoy from the British Government. He entered the town with all possible honours and attentions, and was lodged at the Char-baugh under the English flag.

The Ulemahs, Mufti, and others, assembled at Essan Khan's, and declared they would never submit to the Kajjars; that the country belonged to the English. Essan Khan took an oath as they requested, and they retired satisfied.

Sultan Moorad Meerza, on learning what was passing, quitted Bernabad, and again advanced to near Herat. The Heratees met the army at a village called Oojaloo, where they fought a battle; 300 Persians were killed, and 400 camels captured and brought into Herat; the Heratees losing 3 men killed and 9 wounded. The day after, all the ammunition of the Persian army exploded and killed 360 men. The Heratees made a sortie, and again killed 200 men; 15 were taken prisoners and immediately sold to the Toorkomans. The army remained five days, skirmishing every day, till at length the Persians retired to Seng-a-Best, whence horsemen were dispatched to Meshed for ammunition.

Three thousand Toorkomans from Serekhs, Merve, and Meimuneh, came and agreed that 1,000 of them should take the Meshed road, and plunder whatever came in their way, 1,000 the road to Ghyne, and 1,000 to hover about the Persian camp. The roads are quite impracticable for travellers, and the soldiers dare not quit their tents; 300 of Sam Khan's horsemen, escorting 400 camel-loads of provisions from Meshed, were seized by the Toorkomans; 30 of the horsemen subsequently escaped.

Aly Koolee Khan, the brother of Abdoollah Jan, Jamsheedee, with 1,000 men, had entered Herat to reinforce Essan Khan. Abdoollah Jan himself had collected 3,000 men, and had summoned 3,000 Yoozbegs, and he wrote to Essan Khan that he would soon reach Herat at the head of 6,000 men.

At this moment there are 7,000 fighting men in Herat, asembled under the English flag. I quitted Herat twenty-seven days from this date (June 16, 1856).

Translated by
(Signed) Rich. W. Stevens.

No. 116.

Consul Stevens to the Earl of Clarendon.—(Received July 29.)

(Extract.) *Camp near Tehran, June 22, 1856.*

IT has this day been reported to me that the Government has received intelligence, confirming the facts mentioned in the inclosure to my despatch to your Lordship of the 20th instant, viz.: the hoisting of the English flag in Herat; the appearance of a person there calling himself a British Envoy; and, finally, the retreat of the Persian army to a distance of twenty or twenty-five miles on the road to Meshed.

I have also been assured that orders were sent off to Prince Sultan Moorad Meerza, enjoining him to carry Herat, even with the certainty of losing half his army, and the Shah has also addressed an autograph note to the Prince Commander-in-chief, in which the latter is threatened with being treated like a common criminal if he does not capture the place.

The King and Prime Minister believe that the possession of Herat by the Persian army will be a cause of alarm to Her Majesty's Government, and that by carrying this particular point they will escape on easier terms for their unbecoming conduct towards Mr. Murray.

In considering the Herat question, it may perhaps be requisite to bear in mind that the Persian expedition, according to the Government declaration, was undertaken at the urgent request of Shahzadeh Mahomed Youssuf, and of the Heratees, in view of an expected attack from the Ameer Dost Mahomed Khan. The actual state of things shows that the Persians were actuated by far different reasons. The Shahzadeh himself is a prisoner in their camp; the

Heratees are gallantly, and so far successfully, opposing the Persians; and the Ameer, who was represented as being in full march upon Herat in December last, is quietly occupied in consolidating his position at Candahar. The question therefore occurs, Why do the Persians persist in their schemes of conquest? There can be but one answer—their determination to show the people of Central Asia that they dare brave the British Government, and the hope already alluded to, of alarming the British Government into an easy settlement of the other differences existing with the Persian Court.

Kambar Aly Khan, who, in 1838, was sent by the Persian Government into Affghanistan to work against the British Government, has just been recalled from exile, and appointed to a mission to Dost Mahomed Khan.

The departure of Ferokh Khan for Paris has been postponed to some time next month, so that it will be the middle of September before he can reach Constantinople.

No. 117.

Lord Stratford de Redcliffe to the Earl of Clarendon.—(*Received July* 29.)

(Extract.) *Constantinople, July* 16, 1856.

I HAVE the honour to forward herewith in copy, for the information of Her Majesty's Government, the answers which I have received from Tehran to my letters of May 25, copies of which were transmitted to your Lordship with my despatch of the 26th of that month.

The French translation of the Sadr Azim's letter to me, inclosed herewith in copy, came from Tehran, with the original in Persian.

Inclosure 1 in No. 117.

Consul Stevens to Lord Stratford de Redcliffe, June 15, 1856.

[See Inclosure in No. 113.]

Inclosure 2 in No. 117.

The Sadr Azim to Lord Stratford de Redcliffe.

(Traduction.)

M. l'Ambassadeur, *Le* 18 *Chaval,* 1272. (*Le* 22 *Juin,* 1856.)

MR. STEVENS, Consul Britannique à Téhéran, m'a remis la lettre que vous m'avez fait l'honneur de m'écrire en date du 20 Ramazan (25 Mai, 1856), pour me faire part des bonnes intentions et de l'esprit de justice et d'équité dont votre Excellence est animée relativement à la reprise des bonnes relations entre le Gouvernement de Sa Majesté la Reine—intentions du reste entièrement partagées par le Gouvernement Persan.

Votre Excellence pense qu'il ne dépend que de moi d'aplanir les difficultés existantes. Depuis que Sa Majesté le Schah, mon auguste maître, m'a confié la direction des affaires de son Royaume je n'ai cessé d'être animé des meilleures intentions pour le maintien des bonnes relations avec le Gouvernement de Sa Majesté la Reine. Les preuves de ce que j'avance sont trop nombreuses pour que je puisse en entretenir votre Excellence sans m'exposer à troubler ses précieux loisirs. Je ne puis donc mieux faire que de m'en rapporter à cet égard entièrement au jugement de votre Excellence, et à l'esprit de justice et d'équité des Envoyés Britanniques qui ont été, précédemment, successivement accrédités près la Cour de Téhéran. Du reste, je puis assurer votre Excellence que le Gouvernement Persan fera tout ce qui dépendra de lui pour ne point sacrifier son ancienne et bonne amitié avec le Gouvernement Britannique, à des actes ou des paroles de personnes mal-intentionnées.

La première question a trait aux moyens à employer pour faire disparaître d'une manière satisfaisante pour les deux Cours les difficultés qui se sont élevées

entre la Perse et la Grande Bretagne. La lettre que j'ai eu l'honneur de vous faire parvenir par l'intermédiaire de notre Chargé d'Affaires à Constantinople, tout en prouvant combien le Gouvernement de Sa Majesté le Schah attache de prix à l'amitié de l'Angleterre, aura sans doute été considérée par votre Excellence comme remplissant toutes les conditions nécessaires au retour à Téhéran de la Légation Britannique, qui a si malencontreusement et sans motif plausible rompu ses relations avec le Gouvernement Persan.

La deuxième question est relative à Hérat. Le Gouvernement Persan, en envoyant des troupes vers cette ville, n'a eu qu'un but, celui de maintenir l'ordre et la tranquillité, tant à l'intérieure qu'à l'extérieure, de la province du Khoraçan. Aucune autre pensée ne l'a guidé dans ses opérations. Cette question n'ayant aucun rapport avec la rupture des relations et le départ de Téhéran de la Légation d'Angleterre, votre Excellence conviendra, qu'après toutes les marques de conciliation et de bon vouloir que le Gouvernement Persan lui a récemment témoignées, il n'y a pas lieu de subordonner le retour à Téhéran de la Légation Britannique à un arrangement définitif de l'affaire de Hérat et de l'Affghanistan ; car c'est là une question très compliquée, tout-à-fait en dehors de la question qui vous occupe, et dont la solution, grâce à l'amitié et à la bonne entente qui règnent entre les deux pays, repose entièrement sur les soins et les efforts du Gouvernement de Sa Majesté le Schah, joints à ceux de la Légation Britannique, dont la présence à Téhéran n'a jamais été aussi nécessaire qu'aujourd'hui. Néanmoins comme la question d'Hérat paraît préoccuper sérieusement votre Excellence, je crois devoir la mettre au courant de tous les incidents récemment survenus, des changements opérés, des dangers nouveaux auxquels les anciennes institutions de l'Affghanistan ont été exposées, et la prier de vouloir bien joindre ses efforts aux miens dans le but de mettre un terme à un pareil état de choses.

La politique de la Perse relativement à Hérat et à l'Affghanistan n'a pas changé. Elle a toujours tendu à maintenir indépendantes l'une de l'autre les deux provinces de Kandahar et d'Hérat, à les empêcher de se nuire mutuellement, et enfin à ne pas permettre à Kaboul de sortir des limites que ses devoirs envers la Perse lui prescrivaient. Ces mesures n'ont jamais été cachées aux Agents Britanniques. Elles ne sauraient donc avoir rien de nouveau pour eux ; après tous les pourparlers et les nombreuses délibérations dans lesquelles le Gouvernement de Sa Majesté le Schah est maintes fois et ostensiblement entré à ce sujet avec les Agents Britanniques, elles ne sauraient exciter l'étonnement de personne, et du reste rien ne peut faire présumer que des objections puissent être soulevées contre le maintien et la durée de cette politique.

Les actes insolites de Dost Mahomed Khan, actes dont la direction était au-dessus des forces personnelles et des moyens administratifs de ce chef, ont été l'objet de longues et sérieuses réflexions de la part du Gouvernement de Sa Majesté le Schah. Dost Mahomed Khan ne s'est pas contenté de s'emparer de Kandahar, et de dépasser ainsi les limites qui lui étaient tracées, d'avoir dispersé par la discorde les fils de Kohendil Khan, malgré les rapports intimes qui les liaient au Gouvernement Persan. Il a osé semer en outre des bruits divers qui ont jeté dans l'épouvante les habitants d'Hérat et du Khoraçan, exposant ainsi ces deux provinces à un danger imminent. Bien plus, dans le but de faire entrer les populations dans son parti, il ne cesse de répandre parmi elles des écrits dans un style tout-à-fait Royal, se posant ainsi en vrai Souverain. Ces écrits, qui prouvent d'une manière si évidente les méfaits de ce chef, ont été saisis et se trouvent aujourd'hui au pouvoir du Gouvernement Persan.

Si avant que les habitants d'Hérat n'eussent demandé à la Perse de venir à leur secours contre Dost Mahomed Khan, celui-ci eût marché sur Hérat, il n'aurait pas rencontré plus de difficultés à s'emparer de cette ville qu'il n'en a éprouvé pour prendre Kandahar ; et dans ce cas, je le demande à votre Excellence, quelle aurait été la situation de la Perse ?

C'est uniquement dans le but de mettre Dost Mahomed Khan dans la nécessité de renoncer à ses velléités de conquête, et pour le forcer à retourner sur ses pas, que le Gouvernement Persan, fidèle à sa politique, a expédié une armée sur le territoire Afghan. Loin de se retirer devant les troupes Persanes, Dost Mahomed Khan s'est montré plus entreprenant encore que par le passé. Il a fait des démarches pour s'emparer du Seistan et du Kaïnat, qui font partie intégrante des deux provinces du Khoraçan et du Kerman. Il y a répandu des écrits divers, il a envoyé des cadeaux aux personnes qui lui paraissaient jouir de quelque

influence, et a ainsi jeté le trouble et le désordre dans les autres parties du Khoraçan et du Kerman en se déclarant protégé de l'Angleterre. Dost Mahomed Khan, fort de cette position, dont il espère un grand résultat pour lui, attend le retour sur le territoire Persan des troupes de Sa Majesté le Schah, car leur présence sur le territoire Afghan le gêne beaucoup ; et débarrassé de cette difficulté, il s'empresserait de mettre ses projets à exécution, sans s'occuper du désordre qui règne à Kaboul, ou de la perte presque totale de son pouvoir à Kandahar. Il est évident que si la Perse n'avait pas pris toutes les mesures qui lui ont été dictées par ses intérêts territoriaux, il y a longtemps que ce chef Afghan aurait atteint le but qu'il se propose.

Je crois devoir appeler ici l'attention de votre Excellence sur la situation politique de l'Afghanistan. Le Gouvernement de la Grande Bretagne possède renseignements exacts sur la situation de cette contrée, sur les mœurs et les usages de ses populations. Il me parait difficile qu'il soit de l'intérêt de l'Angleterre et de la Perse qu'une si vaste contrée se trouve placée tout entière sous la domination d'un seul chef. Il semblerait, au contraire, que l'intérêt des deux pays réclame hautement le rétablissement de l'ancien ordre de choses ; c'est-à-dire, la multiplicité de chefs indépendants les uns des autres.

Supposons un instant que l'Angleterre ait la certitude de n'avoir jamais à craindre aucun acte d'hostilité de la part des Afghans. La Perse peut-elle se flatter d'avoir la même assurance, et ses intérêts lui permettent-ils de rester simple spectatrice devant les faits et gestes d'une population dont chaque acte signale un méfait ? La Perse ne peut donc être rassurée ni au sujet de l'Afghanistan, ni à l'égard de la tranquillité de l'intérieur de ses provinces, que si l'ancien ordre de choses est rétabli d'une manière définitive. Il serait dangereux pour elle si, après tous les dangers que je viens de signaler à votre Excellence, et avant de procéder à un arrangement définitif et durable des affaires des provinces Afghans, elle rappelait ses troupes sur le territoire Persan. Cependant, si Dost Mahomed Khan se retire de Kandahar, en abandonnant entièrement cette ville au pouvoir exclusif des fils de Kohendil Khan, et en s'engageant à ne point s'ingérer dans les affaires intérieures de Kandahar, les troupes de Sa Majesté le Schah seraient immédiatement rappelées.

Ferokh Khan, envoyé comme Ambassadeur de Sa Majesté le Schah près la Cour de France, est chargé de voir votre Excellence à son passage à Constantinople, et de se concerter avec elle en se conformant aux instructions dont il est muni à ce sujet, dans le but d'arrêter, d'une manière définitive et permanente, un arrangement propre à empêcher le retour d'aussi fâcheuses complications.

Les bonnes dispositions de votre Excellence, et l'esprit de justice et d'équité dont elle est animée, me font espérer que cette grave question sera facilement résolue, et cela d'une manière conforme à l'amitié et à la bonne entente qui règnent entre la Perse et la Grande Bretagne.

Bien qu'il ait été recommandé à Ferokh Khan de ne séjourner que pendant cinq jours à Constantinople, cependant dans l'espoir qu'il pourra obtenir une solution au sujet de la question qui nous occupe, il a été autorisé à s'y arrêter dix jours de plus.

Salut.

(Seal of the Sadr Azim.)

(Translation.)

M. l'Ambassadeur, 18 *Chaval*, 1272. (*June* 22, 1856.)

MR. STEVENS, the British Consul at Tehran, has given me the letter which you did me the honour to address me on the 20th Ramazan (May 25, 1856), informing me of the good intentions and of the spirit of justice and equity by which your Excellency is actuated in regard to the establishment of friendly relations with the Government of Her Majesty the Queen—intentions which are entirely shared by the Persian Government. Your Excellency supposes that it rests with me alone to remove existing difficulties. Ever since His Majesty the Shah, my august master, confided to me the direction of the affairs of his kingdom, I have invariably been actuated by the best intentions for the maintenance of friendly relations with the Government of Her Majesty the Queen. The proofs of what I state are too numerous for me to lay them before your Excellency without risk of disturbing your valuable leisure. I

cannot do better than to rely in this matter entirely on your Excellency's judgment, and upon the spirit of justice and equity of the British Envoys who were before this time successively accredited to the Court of Tehran. For the rest, I can assure your Excellency that the Persian Government will do all that depends upon them to avoid sacrificing their old and firm friendship with the British Government to the acts or speeches of ill-intentioned persons.

The first question is, what means shall be employed to remove the difficulties that have arisen between Persia and Great Britain, in a manner satisfactory to both Courts?

The letter which I have had the honour to send to you, through our Chargé d'Affaires at Constantinople, while it proves what great value the Government of His Majesty the Shah attaches to the friendship of England, will, no doubt, have been considered by your Excellency as fulfilling all the conditions necessary for the return to Tehran of the British Legation, which has in so unlucky a manner, and without plausible motive, broken off its relations with the Persian Government.

The second question is relative to Herat. The Persian Government, in sending troops towards this town, had but one object in view, namely, to maintain order and tranquillity both within and without the province of Khorassan. They were influenced in their operations by no other idea. As this question has no connection with the breaking off of relations and the departure of the British Legation from Tehran, your Excellency will admit that, after all the marks of conciliation and good will which the Persian Government has recently shown to the British Legation, there is no cause to make its return to Tehran depend upon the definitive arrangement of the affair of Herat and Affghanistan, for that is an extremely complicated question, in no way connected with that which now occupies you, and the solution of which, thanks to the friendship and good understanding which exists between the two countries, depends entirely upon the care and efforts of the Government of His Majesty the Shah, and those of the British Legation, whose presence at Tehran was never so necessary as at this moment. Nevertheless, since the question of Herat seems seriously to occupy your Excellency, I consider it my duty to inform you of all the incidents which have recently taken place, the changes effected, the new dangers to which the ancient institutions of Affghanistan have been exposed, and to request you to join with me in endeavouring to put a stop to such a state of affairs.

The policy of Persia with respect to Herat has undergone no change. She has always endeavoured to keep the two Provinces of Candahar and Herat independent of one another, to prevent their doing harm to each other, and to prevent Cabul from overstepping the limits prescribed to her by her duty to Persia. These measures have never been concealed from the British Agents. They can find nothing new in them. After all the conferences and the constant deliberations in which the Government of His Majesty the Shah frequently and openly entered upon this subject with British Agents, these measures can astonish no one, and, besides, there is no ground for presuming that objections can be raised against the maintenance and duration of this policy.

The extraordinary proceedings of Dost Mahomed Khan, proceedings for the direction of which neither his personal capacity nor his administrative means were adequate, have been the subject of long and serious reflections on the part of the Government of His Majesty the Shah. Dost Mahomed Khan was not satisfied with having taken possession of Candahar, thus trangressing the boundaries which had been prescribed to him, with having separated the sons of Kohendil Khan by quarrels, in spite of the intimate relations which bound them to the Persian Government. He has dared, moreover, to spread divers rumours, which have caused a panic amongst the inhabitants of Herat and Khorassan, and has thus exposed these two provinces to imminent danger. More than this, with the object of enlisting the populations on his side, he constantly distributes among them writings drawn up in regal style, thus setting himself up as a real Sovereign. These writings, which so clearly prove the misdeeds of this Chief, have been seized, and are now in the power of the Persian Government.

If Dost Mahomed Khan had marched upon Herat before its inhabitants had asked Persia to come to their assistance against him, he would have found no more difficulty in seizing upon that town than he had in taking possession of

Candahar; and in this case I ask your Excellency what would have been the situation of Persia?

It is only with the object of obliging Dost Mahomed Khan to renounce his fancies for conquest, and to force him to retrace his steps, that the Persian Government, faithful to their policy, have sent an army into the Affghan territory. Far from retreating before the Persian troops, Dost Mahomed Khan has shown himself still more enterprising than before. He has taken steps for seizing upon Seistan and Kainat, which form an integral part of the two Provinces of Khorassan and Kerman. He has published various writings, he has sent presents to those persons who appeared to him to possess some influence, and has thus thrown the other parts of Khorassan and Kerman into confusion and disorder, by declaring himself under the protection of England. Dost Mahomed Khan, feeling himself strong in this position, from which he expects great results, awaits the return of the troops of His Majesty the Shah to Persian territory (for their presence upon the territory of Affghanistan embarrasses him much), and once rid of this obstacle, he would set to work to execute his projects without considering the disorders which exist at Cabul, or the almost total loss of his power at Candahar. It is evident that if Persia had not taken all the steps which her territorial interests required, this Affghan Chief would long ago have attained the object he has in view.

I consider it my duty here to call the attention of your Excellency to the political position of Affghanistan. The British Government possesses accurate information respecting the situation of this country, and the habits and customs of its inhabitants. I cannot conceive it to be for the interest of England and Persia that so vast a territory should be all under the rule of a single Chief. It would seem, on the contrary, that the interests of the two countries loudly call for the restoration of the ancient order of things; that is to say, a multiplicity of Chiefs independent of each other.

Let us suppose for an instant that England were sure of never having to fear any act of hostility on the part of the Affghans. Can Persia flatter herself that she possesses the same security, and can her interests allow her to remain a mere spectator of the exploits and deeds of a population whose every act threatens an outrage?

Persia can, then, feel no confidence, either respecting Affghanistan, or with regard to the internal tranquillity of her provinces, unless the ancient order of things is definitively restored. It would be perilous for her if, after all the dangers I have pointed out to your Excellency, she recalled her troops into the Persian territory before coming to a final and permanent settlement of the affair of the Affghan provinces. Nevertheless, if Dost Mahomed Khan withdraws from Candahar, gives over that town to the exclusive power of the sons of Kohendil Khan, and engages not to interfere in the internal affairs of Candahar, the troops of His Majesty the Shah will be immediately recalled.

Ferokh Khan, who is sent as Ambassador from His Majesty the Shah to the Court of France, is instructed to see your Excellency while passing through Constantinople, and, as far as his instructions upon the subject permit, to act in concert with your Excellency, for the purpose of concluding a final and permanent arrangement, which shall prevent the recurrence of such vexatious disputes.

The good feeling of your Excellency, and the spirit of justice and equity with which you are animated, give me hopes that this grave question will be easily settled, and that, too, in a manner which will accord with that friendship and good understanding which exist between Persia and Great Britain.

Although Ferokh Khan had been recommended to remain only five days at Constantinople, nevertheless, in the hope of obtaining a solution of the question which now engages our attention, he has been authorized to remain there ten days longer.

Greeting.

(Seal of the Sadr Azim.)

No. 118.

The Earl of Clarendon to Consul Stevens.

(Extract.) *Foreign Office, July* 30, 1856.

I HAVE received your despatch of the 4th ultimo, reporting the insult offered to Meerza Mootallib, the Persian writer of the British Consulate, and the violation, at the instigation of Syed Morteza, of the right of asylum accorded to the residence of the British Mission at Tehran.

You will give the Persian Government to understand that the redress which Her Majesty's Government will require is that which you have indicated, and you will say that you do so by desire of Her Majesty's Government, who see with surprise the determination of the Persian Government to heap up causes of offence against England, and for which the day of reparation will come.

No. 119.

Consul Stevens to the Earl of Clarendon.—(Received August 21.)

My Lord, *Camp near Tehran, July* 10, 1856.

I HAVE the honour to inform your Lordship that the Persian Government lately received intelligence of an important capture, if true, in the wives, children, and property of some value, of Essan Khan, of Herat. It would seem, from the statement given out by the Prime Minister, that Essan Khan had sent them away with an escort of 300 men, intending to remove them to some place of safety; that on their departure becoming known to the Persians, 2,000 horsemen were dispatched in pursuit, and the whole party was seized and conveyed to the Persian camp.

Supposing this information to be correct, it is still a question whether Essan Khan will decide on giving up the place; and, should he do so, whether his decision will be submitted to by the people themselves.

Abbas Khan Naib, a person of some note in Herat, has deserted to the Persians.

The Government assumes, from the preceding facts, that Herat has ere this surrendered, and so confident does it feel on this point, that a further supply of ammunition and 20,000 tomauns have been sent off to Prince Sultan Moorad Meerza, with, it is said, orders to leave a garrison there, and then march with the bulk of his army in the direction of Candahar.

A nephew of the late Kohendil Khan arrived in Tehran the day before yesterday.

I have, &c.
(Signed) RICH. W. STEVENS.

P.S.—*July* 11. I learn this morning that the Persian Government has received a messenger from Herat, and that Prince Sultan Moorad Meerza writes that Essan Khan had offered to admit one Persian battalion into the citadel; but the Prince refused, fearing that so small a number of men would not be safe there—he proposed to send three battalions. Essan Khan's decision on this point had not reached the camp when the messenger left for Tehran.

R. W. S.

No. 120.

Consul Stevens to the Earl of Clarendon.—(Received August 21.)

(Extract.) *Camp near Tehran, July* 10, 1856.

I REGRET being compelled to report to your Lordship some further proceedings on the part of the Persian Prime Minister, which I cannot but designate as unfriendly to the British Government. Out of Persia they may

seem trifling incidents, but anybody acquainted with this country will agree that here they are looked upon in a different light, as tending to injure us in public estimation.

A few days ago the Minister for Foreign Affairs informed me, in an official letter, that the water hitherto supplied to the Mission premises during the nights of Sundays and Tuesdays, would be discontinued and otherwise disposed of, the Mission having no right thereto; and that although the Persian Government, moreover, questioned our claim to the use of the said stream in the daytime of Tuesdays, it would postpone a decision on this point to a future day. According to the Persian Government, therefore, the Mission is entitled to the water only between sunrise and sunset on Sundays, that is, for a few hours each week, which is quite inadequate to what is required for the house and garden, and for the quarters occupied by the Attachés.

If I am rightly informed by persons supposed to be acquainted with the matter, the pretension put forward by the Persian Government is perfectly groundless. The water (known as the Kennaut Mahreeghird) on Sundays and Sunday nights was secured to the premises by Fatteh Aly Shah, when they were first occupied by a British Mission. During the Envoyship of Sir John Campbell, a person named Meerza Mehmed Ali Khan, the owner of a stream which also passed near the house, presented a portion of it (a night and a day per week) to the Mission, both for its own use, and for the use of the people residing near it, and the gift was confirmed by a firman from the late King, Mahomed Shah. Some years afterwards, on the kennaut or course being deranged or destroyed, an application was made by Sir Justin Sheil to the then Prime Minister, Hagee Meerza Aghasse, who replaced the loss, by granting to the Mission the additional right of receiving water from the Kennaut Mahreeghird on Tuesdays and Tuesdays nights, an arrangement which continued in force until last week, when, as the Foreign Minister had previously announced to me, the water on the nights of Sunday and Tuesday was cut off, although I had, in the meanwhile, sent a request to the Sadr Azim that he would allow the matter to remain on the usual footing until Mr. Murray returned to Tehran.

The Mission garden is about the best, if not the best, within the walls of the town, and is no doubt an object of jealousy to the Persians. Its value, as well as its utility, will certainly be considerably curtailed by submitting to the proposed interference with the supply of water.

If necessary, Sir Justin Sheil would be able to afford your Lordship accurate information on a subject with which he is thoroughly acquainted.

Not content with depriving us of water in the town, the Sadr Azim has done the same in the country, by compelling the owner of a stream passing through the village of Goolahek to sell it to him for 600 tomauns, about 2,000 tomauns below its value, and he is now preparing kennauts for turning it into Davodieh, his private villa in this neighbourhood.

The third act of the Prime Minister, which I consider it my duty to report to your Lordship, is the treatment of Colonel Materazzo, the chief instructor of the Persian army, who came here four years ago with a passport from Lord Stratford de Redcliffe, on whose recommendation Sir Justin Sheil got him employment in Persia.

This gentleman has been several times desired to discontinue visiting me, but he invariably pleaded his inability to do so, on the ground of being under British protection, a position which obliged him, more or less, to frequent the Consulate. A few days since he was summarily ordered to go and reside at Ispahan, a sort of banishment he would not submit to. Yesterday he was sent for by the Sadr Azim, and informed by his Highness that if he wished to remain in the Persian service he must give a written document, binding himself to renounce British protection, as well as all intercourse with the British Agents. The Colonel indignantly refused to subscribe to such terms, and he is in consequence preparing to leave the country, where it is notorious that he does so merely because he has refused to forego his visits to the British Consulate.

No. 121.

Consul Stevens to the Earl of Clarendon.—(Received August 28.)

My Lord, *Camp near Tehran, July 22, 1856.*

ACCORDING to intelligence received a few days ago by the Persian Government, Herat still held out against the besieging forces, and I have now reason to believe that there was no foundation in the report spread by the Prime Minister about the capture of Essan Khan's family.

I have, &c.

(Signed) RICH. W. STEVENS.

No. 122.

The Earl of Clarendon to Consul Stevens.

Sir, *Foreign Office, September 16, 1856.*

I HAVE received your despatch of the 10th of July, reporting that you had received from the Persian Minister for Foreign Affairs, an official letter acquainting you that the water hitherto supplied on the nights of Sundays and Tuesdays to the premises of Her Majesty's Mission at Tehran would be discontinued, and, moreover, that the Persian Government questions the right of Her Majesty's Mission to the use of the same stream in the day-time on Tuesdays; and I have, in reply, to instruct you to inform the Persian Government that you are directed to remonstrate against this new and premeditated insult towards the British Mission, and consequently towards Her Majesty's Government.

Her Majesty's Government regard this measure as part of a system which has been established by the Sedr Azim; and upon him, more than upon any one else, the responsibility of these acts will rest.

I am, &c.

(Signed) CLARENDON.

No. 123.

Consul Stevens to the Earl of Clarendon.—(Received September 19.)

My Lord, *Camp near Tehran, August 12, 1856.*

I HAD the honour to receive, on the 8th instant, your Lordship's despatch of the 11th ultimo, inclosing a sealed letter for the Sadr Azim, as well as a copy thereof, of which your Lordship instructed me to prepare a translation for delivery, together with the original, to the Sadr Azim.

I beg leave to report to your Lordship that the King and Court being at Dernawend, a distance of about fifty miles, I obtained post horses on the evening of the 9th, and reached the camp early on the 10th. Having immediately obtained an interview with the Prime Minister, I delivered the letter and translation to him, and then returned to Goolahek. I verbally informed his Highness that the messenger who had brought the packet would be dispatched again to Constantinople at noon on the 17th. He said his reply would be sent to me by that day.

The Prime Minister read the translation two or three times, but did not make a single remark on its contents; and, on my part, I observed the same silence.

I have, &c.

(Signed) RICH. W. STEVENS.

No. 124.

Consul Stevens to the Earl of Clarendon.—(Received September 19.)

My Lord, *Camp near Tehran, August 15, 1856.*

I HAVE the honour to inform your Lordship that soon after I delivered your Lordship's letter to the Sadr Azim, orders were sent to the provinces summoning fifteen battalions of Regular Infantry, five of them for service in Bushire, five in Mohamrah, and five in Kerman.

From this measure it may be inferred that the Sadr's answer to your Lordship's communication will not be a satisfactory one.

I have, &c.

(Signed) RICH. W. STEVENS.

No. 125.

Consul Stevens to the Earl of Clarendon.—(Received September 19.)

My Lord, *Camp near Tehran, August 16, 1856.*

MEERZA MEHMED, the Vizier of Khorassan, who recently went to Herat, has reported to the Persian Government, that twelve days ago he had an interview with Essan Khan, and that from what then passed between them, the Vizier entertained no doubt but that he would very shortly be enabled to announce the surrender of Herat to the Persian forces.

I have, &c.

(Signed) RICH. W. STEVENS.

No. 126.

Consul Stevens to the Earl of Clarendon.—(Received September 19.)

(Extract.) *Camp near Tehran, August 17, 1856.*

WITH reference to my despatch of the 12th instant, I have the honour to inform your Lordship that as the hour specified in my interview with the Sadr Azim for the departure of the courier for Constantinople approached, and by which time his Highness promised to send me an answer to your Lordship's communication of the 10th July, I received a private note from the Persian Minister for Foreign Affairs stating that the Sadr Azim having been indisposed, he had not been able to write his reply, and that he hoped to have it prepared by to-morrow or next day.

As your Lordship instructed me to adhere to the time which I might fix for the dispatch of the messenger, I send him off this day at noon.

The Sadr's excuse is, I have every reason to believe, a mere pretext.

I have already informed your Lordship that your letter was delivered to the Sadr on the morning of the 10th instant.

No. 127.

The Earl of Clarendon to Consul Stevens.

Sir, *Foreign Office, September 22, 1856.*

I HAVE to acquaint you that orders will be sent to India by the mail of the 26th instant to dispatch, without further delay, to the Persian Gulf, and with a view to operations against the Persian territory, a naval and military expedition, for which preparations have been some time in progress. Her Majesty's Government consider, therefore, that the time is arrived for the withdrawal from Persia of Her Majesty's Consuls at Tehran and at Tabreez; and you will accordingly, as soon as possible after the receipt of this despatch, set

out for Bagdad, taking with you the public archives, and breaking up altogether, on your departure, Her Majesty's Consulate. You will, however, make the best arrangement in your power for the preservation of the Mission premises, and the property which may necessarily be left behind.

On the eve of your departure you will acquaint the Minister for Foreign Affairs that you have been instructed to quit Persia in consequence of the course which the Persian Government persists in following with regard to Herat, and other matters in discussion between Great Britain and Persia; and you will understand that you are not to be induced, by any assurances tendered to you by the Persian Government, to abstain from commencing your journey to Bagdad as soon as you are ready to set out.

You will acquaint any British subjects who may be at Tehran with your approaching departure, and, if they determine to accompany you, you will permit them to do so; or, if they prefer to remain, you will request the French Minister to protect them during the absence of the British Mission from Persia.

You will be careful not to give to any person whatever the slightest intimation of the intention of Her Majesty's Government to have recourse to coercive measures in the Persian Gulf.

It is not intended at present to withdraw the East India Company's Agent at Bushire, as the presence of the British force in the Gulf will be sufficient to protect him from insult or injury; though, if he has reason to apprehend danger before the force arrives, he will have permission to place himself and his establishment in safety.

I am, &c.
(Signed) CLARENDON.

[N.B. A similar despatch was addressed, on the same date, to Consul Abbott.]

No. 128.

Mr. Hammond to Consul Stevens.

Sir, *Foreign Office, September* 24, 1856.

THE Earl of Clarendon has received your despatch of the 12th ultimo, and I am directed by his Lordship to convey to you his approval of your proceedings, as therein reported, on the occasion of your delivering to the Sadr Azim the letter inclosed in Lord Clarendon's despatch of the 11th July.

I am, &c.
(Signed) E. HAMMOND.

No. 129.

Mr. Hammond to Sir G. Clerk.

Sir, *Foreign Office, September* 24, 1856.

I AM directed by the Earl of Clarendon to request that you will acquaint the President of the Board of Control that it is the wish of Her Majesty's Government that orders for the dispatch of the expedition prepared for operations in the Persian Gulf should be sent to India by the next mail.

I am, &c.
(Signed) E. HAMMOND.

No. 130.

Consul Stevens to the Earl of Clarendon.—(Received September 25.)

My Lord, *Camp near Tehran, August* 21, 1856.

WITH reference to my despatch of the 17th instant, in which I reported having that day sent off the messenger to Constantinople, although no answer to your Lordship's letter to the Sadr Azim had reached me, I have now the

honour to inform you that his Highness's answer was sent to me at noon on the 18th. I immediately returned it, with a note explaining that, as my messenger had started the day before (the time fixed upon during my interview with the Prime Minister), his Highness might wish to transmit it to Constantinople by an express of his own; but, I added, our usual monthly Gholaum for Erzeroom would be dispatched on the 23rd, and if he desired to avail of this opportunity, it would be at his Highness's disposal.

This offer was accepted, and on the 20th, the packet, sealed, and to the address of your Lordship, was again forwarded to me. I have the honour to inclose it herewith.*

The Persian Ministers inform me that a translation accompanies the original. But to avoid misunderstandings, it might be a necessary precaution to cause another translation to be made in England.

I have, &c.

(Signed) RICH. W. STEVENS.

No. 131.

The Sadr Azim to the Earl of Clarendon.—(Received September 25.)

(Traduction.)

Après les compliments d'usage.

Excellence, *Téhéran*, 14 *Zilhidjé*, 1272. (17 *Août*, 1856.)

J'AI reçu la lettre que votre Excellence m'a adressé en date du 11 Juillet passé, et j'ai pris connaissance de son contenu. Bien que j'avais écrit une lettre du 18 Shewal, en réponse à la lettre que son Excellence Lord Redcliffe, Ambassadeur du Gouvernement Britannique, résidant à Constantinople, m'avait adressé, dont il était chargé de la part de son Gouvernement, pour entrer en pourparler pour deux questions, d'abord à cause de la rupture de son Excellence Mr. Murray avec le Gouvernement Persan, et au sujet d'Hérat; sans nul doute que jusqu'ici il aura fait parvenir le contenu de ma lettre au Gouvernement de Sa Majesté Britannique; bien que je n'avais pas besoin de donner séparément de nouveaux détails, cependant comme la politesse exige et des égards qu'on doit avoir à la lettre de votre Excellence, ainsi je vous donne la peine en vous écrivant de nouveau et en détail, avec toutes les politesses possibles. Bien que nous avions chargé avec des instructions suffisantes son Excellence Eminu-ul-Moolk Ferokh Khan, Ambassadeur Extraordinaire de notre Gouvernement à la Cour de Paris, qu'à son arrivée à Constantinople, en observant l'amitié parfaite des deux Gouvernements, d'entrer en relation avec son Excellence Lord Redcliffe, pour donner une bonne fin, observant aussi la dignité et l'honneur des deux Gouvernements, sans doute qu'à son arrivée à Constantinople, d'après ses instructions, il agira en conséquence.

Son Excellence l'Ambassadeur Ferokh Khan, selon la mission qu'il a, aura à observer l'amitié qui existe depuis tant d'années, et qui existe même dans ce moment-ci, entre le Gouvernement Persan et le Gouvernement Britannique; et même le Gouvernement Persan n'a jamais eu ni l'idée ni la pensée de rompre l'amitié existante avec le Gouvernement Britannique, mais le Gouvernement Persan n'avait et n'a pas d'outre idée nouvelle que de conserver son amitié avec le Gouvernement Britannique; et il désire que cela soit connue et évidente au Gouvernement de Sa Majesté Britannique ainsi qu'à sa nation. Ainsi son Excellence Ferokh Khan, qui se rendait à Constantinople, bien qu'il n'était pas pressé d'y arriver vite, cependant le Gouvernement Persan lui a expédié un courrier extraordinaire avec ordre de ne s'arrêter nul part, et de se rendre à Constantinople au plus tôt possible; et comme nous lui avons verbalement parlé et donné la mission, pour les deux questions susdites, avec les instructions suffisantes, qu'à son arrivée à Constantinople de tâcher avec son Excellence Lord Redcliffe de les terminer, et qu'ensuite de vous informer.

J'espère qu'après que votre Excellence sera informée des idées amicales du Gouvernement Persan, et que toutes ces idées ne sont que purement de l'amitié sincère, et après que vous serez informé des affaires qui se sont passées entre le Gouvernement Persan et les Représentants du Gouvernement Britannique, et que vous donniez la cause de la rupture du Traité au Gouvernement

* No. 131.

Persan, et dont cela n'était pas juste de lui en attribuer, vous rendrez vous-même justice là-dessus. S'il y avait même un Traité à son sujet, ce n'est pas de notre part qu'il a été violé. Et aussi, s'il y a eu lieu aussi une question ou affaire, nous n'étions pas la cause. Je suis certain qu'après l'arrivée de son Excellence Eminu-ul-Moolk à Constantinople, comme il y a une équité entre les deux Ambassadeurs, ils termineront toutes les questions.

Le Gouvernement Persan est bien plus persuadé de l'équité et de l'amitié du Gouvernement Britannique et de son peuple que de croire aux torts et des dommages qui veuillent faire sans raison à une Puissance qui est leur amie, et dont celle-ci n'a d'autre but que de l'amitié à l'égard du Gouvernement de Sa Majesté Britannique, et de sa propre défense; et au lieu que le Gouvernement Persan avait toujours lieu d'espérer de l'amitié du Gouvernement Britannique, au contraire ce dernier promet de nous causer des maux et des dommages innombrables.

Votre Excellence, qui est douée d'une perfection parfaite, et qui est toujours porté pour le bien-être du Gouvernement Persan, et c'est évident que toujours votre Excellence est porté par sa bonté habituelle à mettre la paix et la bonne harmonie entre les deux Gouvernements; et que Dieu ne fasse que votre bon vouloir soit la cause de la destruction de la base de l'amitié de tant d'années, et que depuis longtemps a été consolidée.

(Translation from Persian original.)

ALTHOUGH, considering the details written on the 15th of the month of Shawal (19th June), in answer to a despatch of his Excellency Lord Redcliffe, Ambassador of the high-ranking Government of England, resident at Constantinople, who is commissioned on the part of the Government to put questions and give answers concerning the subject of the abandonment of diplomatic relations by his Excellency (?) Mr. Murray, and concerning the matter of Herat (details which must certainly by this time have come to the knowledge of the members of the English Government), there be no necessity for a separate epistle; still, the rules of politeness and the consideration due to the honourable quality of a despatch from your Excellency, render incumbent the duty of returning an answer; so that once more it is, with the utmost deference, submitted that, although his Excellency the Eminu-ul-Moolk, Ferokh Khan, Ambassador of this Government appointed to Paris, has received full instructions upon each of the said two points, so as to terminate the discussion with Lord Redcliffe in a manner conformable with the intimate friendship of the two Governments, and to show a regard for the honour and reputation of both parties; and although, on the arrival of his Excellency the Ambassador of this Government at Constantinople, he will doubtless set about fulfilling the conditions of his commission, and, according to the duty wherewith he is charged, watch, in the most considerate manner, over the preservation of the friendship of so many years' standing which has existed, and exists, with the Government of England, and the cessation of which never will be either conceived or imagined; still again, solely in order that the Government and people of England may be convinced that this Government neither has, nor has had, any idea or new design, other than those of preserving the friendship of that Government; and since it had not been contemplated to hurry the said Ambassador in his journey, it was afterwards enjoined to him, through a special courier, to make no halt or delay, but to use the utmost possible diligence in reaching Constantinople, and after having most carefully settled with the Ambassador of that Government (England) both the points in the manner explained to him, and relating to which he has full instructions to communicate (the result?) to your Excellency.

It is hoped that, so soon as your Excellency, the acme of grandeur, shall have become acquainted with the ideas of this Government, which are wholly those of friendship and amity, and shall be made aware of the circumstances which have occurred between the members of this Government and the Agents of that Government, your Excellency will admit that the accusation of breaking a Treaty (or violating engagements) which has been made against this Government has been unmerited; that, if Treaty (engagement) there be, the crime of breaking it has not issued from this side; and that, if anything has happened, the fault has not been on the part of this Government. It is also held for

certain that, on the arrival of the Eminu-ul-Moolk, the two Ambassadors, with the quality of conscientiousness which they severally possess, will arrange the affair in a just and equitable manner.

The Persian Government holds the equity and sense of justice possessed by the English Government and nation to be much too high for them to form the design, without a single reason, of hurting and injuring their own ancient friend, who has had no other object in view than friendship and self-defence; or, in return for the friendly regard which is entertained for that Government, to threaten boundless injury and devastation.

Your Excellency, also, the acme of grandeur, being endowed with the qualities of competency and benevolence, will evidently always use your best endeavour to clear up the matters in dispute, and not (which God forbid!) to demolish the structure of friendship which has lasted through many a long year.

Further trouble need not now be given. May the days of your grandeur and friendship be enduring.

Written on the fourteenth of the month of Zi-'l-hijja the Sacred, in the year 1272 (15th August, 1856).

No. 132.

Consul Stevens to the Earl of Clarendon.—(*Received September* 25.)

My Lord, *Camp near Tehran, August* 23, 1856.

I HAVE the honour to report to your Lordship that the Persian Government has just received official intelligence of the occupation of Subzar, between Herat and Candahar, by a Persian force, composed of three battalions of Infantry and 2,000 Irregular Cavalry, under the command of Agha Khan, Meer Penj, who was preparing to advance upon Furrah.

Furrah is in the hands of an Affghan force, headed by a son of Dost Mahomed Khan.

I have, &c.
(Signed) RICH. W. STEVENS.

No. 133.

Consul Stevens to the Earl of Clarendon.—(*Received September* 23.)

(Extract.) *Camp near Tehran, August* 23, 1856.

IT is now nearly two months since I last heard from Meshed.

I regret also to have to report to your Lordship the expulsion from Asterabad of the Mission Agent, who has just arrived here. But the immediate departure of the messenger prevents my forwarding by him more than a very brief outline of what I have gathered from the Agent's verbal statement, from which it would appear that the authorities of Asterabad had received instructions from Tehran to expel him from that place; but to do it in such a manner as would screen themselves and the Central Government from any responsibility. A party of Kethodas of the town and some Mollahs entered his house, and informed him that the inhabitants were then assembling for the purpose of ejecting him; that unless he immediately departed violence might be resorted to, and they would not answer for the consequences. On his declining to move without previously communicating with the local outhorities, they would not permit it. Threats were held out, a mule was brought to the door, and without attendants, without even being allowed to put on his travelling clothes, he was forthwith conducted out of the town.

The Agent a short time since informed me that he apprehended some violence of this sort. I immediately sent him a passport, to be used in such a case, but the event occurred before my letter reached him.

This affair, and the interruption of our communications with Meshed, clearly demonstrate the necessity for our exacting from the Persian Government the

privilege enjoyed by Russia and Turkey of placing recognized Agents in whatsoever part of Persia the presence of such officers may be considered desirable or useful for commercial or political purposes.

No. 134.

The Earl of Clarendon to Mr. Murray.

Sir, *Foreign Office, September* 26, 1856.

I TRANSMIT, for your information, copies of letters * which I have addressed to Her Majesty's Consul at Tehran, and Her Majesty's Consul at Tabreez, ordering them to withdraw from Persia.

These letters have been sent to Her Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople, with instructions to forward them by a special Tatar.

I am, &c.
(Signed) CLARENDON.

No. 135.

Mr. Leach to Mr. Hammond.—(Received October 8.)

Sir, *India Board, October* 8, 1856.

I AM directed by the Commissioners for the Affairs of India to transmit to you, for the information of the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, a copy of the following papers relative to the proceedings of Persia on the frontiers of Kelat :—

Letter from the Political Superintendent in Upper Scinde, dated the 28th July ;

Letter from the Naib of Kohuck to the Khan of Kelat ; and

Letter from the Commissioner in Scinde, dated the 17th August, with two inclosures.

I have, &c.
(Signed) WM. LEACH.

Inclosure 1 in No. 135.

Captain Merewether to the Commissioner in Scinde.

Political Superintendent's Office, Jacobabad,
(Extract.) *July* 28, 1856.

I HAVE the honour to inform you that the Vakeel of his Highness the Khan of Kelat has this day reported to me that, on the 7th instant, a body of Jokees (a tribe of Beloochee, independent, residing in Seistan), consisting of 500 horsemen and about 3,000 men mounted on camels, made a sudden descent on the immediate neighbourhood of Nooskey, in the Khan's territory, and carried off 3,500 camels, and a very large number of flocks of sheep and goats. The Khan's Naib at Nooskey, Bahadoor Khan, collected a force of about 4,000 men for the purpose of following the plunderers into Seistan, but the Khan sent orders forbidding him to move, believing that this raid was prompted and brought about by the Persians, and that, if his troops proceeded into Seistan, it might involve him with the Persians, which he is anxious to avoid, pending the result of the previous communications made by him to the British Government regarding them.

2. The Persian army is still encamped about twenty-four miles from Jalk, on the very frontier of the Khan's territory. They draw supplies from Jalk and Jirruck, both places within the Khan's country.

3. His Highness has called for full reports as to numbers, nature, &c., of

* No. 127.

this Persian force, but has not received them; on doing so, they will be duly forwarded to you.

4. From Candahar the intelligence is, that Essan Khan, the late Minister at Herat, begged from the Ameer Dost Mahomed, that he would come with a force to Herat, and he would deliver the place into his hands. The Persians, after having entrusted the Governorship of Herat to Essan Kan, on the part of the King of Persia, and after the "khootbeh" had been duly read, and coin ordered to be struck in the name of the Shah, had left, on their return to Meshed, the late Ruler, Mahomed Youssuf, accompanying them; but, hearing that Essan Khan intended treachery, they retraced their steps, and have invested the place. Essan Khan had carefully got rid of all Persians from the fort, only having his own people inside. Of these there are about 4,000 or 5,000, and he writes to Dost Mahomed that he has provisions for four months.

5. The Ameer, knowing the man's faithlessness, has replied that, unless Essan Khan sends his nephew and a lady of his family to Furrah, as an earnest of the truth of his statements, he, the Ameer, will send no troops to Herat.

6. The above was communicated to me verbally by his Highness' Vakeel. He expects other intelligence this evening, with letters, the originals of which, with translations, shall be forwarded to you on their receipt, without delay.

Inclosure 2 in No. 135.

The Naib of Kohuck to the Khan of Kelat.

(Translation.)

After Compliments.

IT will be known to you that I have written to you regarding the proceedings of the infidel Persians. People say they are about to proceed against the Imaum of Muscat ("Mucus" is the word in the letter, which the Vakeel says means "Muscat"), and some say they are coming to Kohuck. The intelligence from Kohuck I also lay before you: with the blessing of Providence and your good fortune, the infidels will meet with defeat, and their thoughts be turned in another direction. If they have turned their thoughts in this direction, not a man will remain in the country. The forts in this country are merely earthworks, and we are unable to hold it: the dread of the infidels is on every one, and the people of this country say, if they (the Persians) come in the direction, they will fly. To hold the country, troops and money are necessary; the feeling of the people of the country is such that they will fly. The state of the army is known to you: they have no pay; your name is great; in your forts, however, there are no stores; and though Khewul Buniah was ordered to put stores into the forts, he has not done so, and, notwithstanding your orders to furnish supplies, &c., to the troops daily, he has not given them. I have received no pay for three months, but, from dread, I am unable to say anything. The Buniah only cares for his own business. Your orders were, that he should daily supply Hussein and Newab, Khodabadanee; he has not done so; they were ordered two rations, and, when they visit you, they receive entertainment for twenty men; but the Buniah gives them nothing, caring only for his own affairs. If it is right that I should entertain twenty or ten men, be so good as to give the order on him, that the pay may be properly disbursed. In this do favour to your soldiers. From the day when you sent me into this country, I have only received one pay, two more are due to me; be so good as to favour me with it, and your soldiers will receive it.

Inclosure 3 in No. 135.

Lieutenant-Colonel Jacob to the Secretary to the Government of India.

Sir, *Kurrachee, August* 17, 1856.

I HAVE the honour to forward the accompanying Persian letters, with translations, containing intelligence of the proceedings of the Persians in the countries bordering on our north-west frontier, for the information of the Governor-General of India in Council.

2. The Azad Khan mentioned in them is the father-in-law of his Highness the Khan of Kelat, but has frequently been opposed to him, and more than once in open rebellion against the Khan's authority. About two years ago, he attempted to get up an insurrection at Kharan, placed himself at the head of a body of troops, and defied the Khan's authority. A force was on that occasion sent against him, when he was reduced to submission, and on his appearing before his Highness the Khan, he was pardoned and restored to favour; he now appears to have gone over to the Persians.

3. I may observe that the tone of the Kelat people and Government is satisfactory, being bold and confident; they evidently put full trust in the will and ability of the British Government to support and protect them against serious or permanent injury.

4. Copies of these letters have been transmitted to the Governor of Bombay in Council.

I have, &c.
(Signed) JOHN JACOB.

Inclosure 4 in No. 135.

Bahar Shah to the Khan of Kelat.

(Translation.)

After Compliments. *27th Zilkaia*, 1272. (*July* 30, 1856.)

PREVIOUS news from this country was forwarded by me to your Highness, which you will have received. A respectable person has now come from Kharan, and reported that Meer Azad Khan* had gone to Jalk and Dijak; further, that he had abandoned you and the Candaharees, and was going to join the Persian Kaffirs, and would make his own arrangements with them. The circumstances are these, that his trust in you and the Candaharees was gone. He has taken much money with him, and the Persians have placed him in possession of Jalk, and he had said whatever money they would ask from him he would give, and he would take possession of Dijak, Jalk, Kedj, and Punjgoor, and appropriate the revenue thereof. A person of somewhat doubtful character came from Dijak and informed me that the orders of the King of Persia to the commanders of the Persian force were, that they were to bring over Meer Mahomed Shah and Meer Azad Khan, and not to return without them.

The Persians have thus spread a net, namely, Jalk, to keep Azad Khan: his province of Kharan being dry and very unproductive, he would fall into the snare. We shall see the results; if he has practised deceit, he will be placed with Mahomed Shah (supposed to mean in confinement); if he has acted openly, then there will be enmity throughout the land.

After the death of Meer Lullah, one of the officers in Kedj, his son, who had shown enmity to the Moolalizze, was checked by me. At this time, two sowars of Meer Azad Khan came and advised Meer Lullah's son to remain quiet, and not entertain enmity, and the Sirkar would arrange all for him. He has relinquished his feeling of enmity, and is now the humble servant of the Sirkar (the Khan).

May, &c. (Signed) BAHAR SHAH.

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* Father-in-law to the Khan of Kelat.

Inclosure 5 in No. 135.

Faiz Ahmed, Balve, to Moollah Ahmed, Vakeel.

(Translation.)

After Compliments. 8*th Zilhidge*, 1272. (*August* 10, 1856.)

YOUR letter arrived, and its contents have become known. You will learn everything from the letter of the Khan. (This letter has not been received, and does not appear to have been written after all.) Keep me constantly informed of the proceedings around you, and consider that while I am with the Khan, it is as if you yourself were present. Other subjects you will be acquainted with through the letter of Mahomed Khan.*

From Candahar no written communications have been recived, but letters from Shawl and a messenger from Shorawuk state that 30,000 men, in addition to those previously before Herat, had joined the army there, and surrounded Lash and Joeen. The Ameers of Cabul and Candahar were much perplexed, and in great stress for want of funds—and without money and supplies the Persian difficulty could not be met—and to attempt to meet it without money would only bring defeat on their troops. Mahomed Omer Khan, son of Kohendil Khan, had fled from Candahar towards the Persian camp at Herat.

The Khan of Kelat, according to your request, has ordered that every week, four times a-month, a report of the proceedings at Herat be obtained from Candahar.

To-day it has been reported that intelligence has been received in Shorawuk of the fall of Herat; but, as no written report has been received, this news cannot be implicitly relied on, though there can be very little doubt that such has been the case, for this reason, that the Candaharees have rendered no assistance, and in Herat itself there is no one of any stamp or faith, and Essan Khan has no real influence. He, Essan Khan, is in Herat, but his proceedings are not judicious.

The intelligence with regard to the Persian force on the frontier of Mekran is as follows:—They have taken Jalk, and with them came 2,500 men. The Persians wrote a letter to the Khan, but he sent no reply, saying he was an ally of the British; wherefore what was the use of any communication with the Shah of Persia?

The Persians then, expecting nothing from the Khan, sent for Azad Khan,† and placed him in charge of the fort of Jalk, and told him he must make war on the Khan, and they would assist him. The Khan directed Bhair Khan, the Governor of Kedj, to collect supplies, &c., and have them ready to move after the Eed (Bukri). The Khan likewise ordered the Governor of Punjgoor to be invested with a dress of honour, and that he should leave immediately after the Eed.

People have been sent to bring intelligence from the Persian camp as to the numbers, &c., of their army on the frontier of Mekran.

Those who have obtained possession of Jalk are under the command of Mahomed Ali.

No matter what the expense may be, an army must be sent this year to Kedj Mekran. Since last year, the Persian army has shown itself. If we are unprepared, the Persians will probably declare war. The Khan has also ordered that no expense shall be spared in obtaining good intelligence.

(Signed) FAIZ AHMED.

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* Mahomed Khan, son of Moollah Ahmed. The letter here quoted has only reference to a petition from one of the Khan's subjects against a person residing in Scinde.

† Father-in-law of the Khan, and Governor of Kharan.

No. 136.

Mr. Leach to Mr. Hammond.—(*Received October* 8.)

(Extract.) *India Board, October* 8, 1856.

I AM directed by the Commissioners for the Affairs of India to transmit to you, for the information of the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, a copy of a letter from the Commissioner in Scinde to the Secretary to the Government of India, dated August 13, suggesting that assistance should be given to the Khan of Kelat, for the purpose of enabling him to resist any aggressive movement on the part of the Shah of Persia.

Inclosure in No. 136.

Lieutenant-Colonel Jacob to the Secretary to the Government of India.

Sir, *Kurrachee, August* 13, 1856.

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 23rd of July last.

2. With reference to the subject of the second paragraph of your letter, I have the honour to state, for the information of the Governor-General of India in Council, that the Khan of Kelat is perfectly well aware that he has no claim as of right, under the existing Treaty, to any assistance from the British Government, beyond the annual subsidy now paid to him. He puts forward no hint at any such claim, and considers it entirely at the pleasure of the British Government to give or withhold further aid, as they may deem best.

3. The Khan of Kelat has, however, earnestly begged for further aid, and I am strongly of opinion that it would be most wise on the part of the British Government immediately to grant it.

4. I have not yet been able to ascertain with any tolerable precision the real strength and nature of the Persian army now in the south-eastern part of Seistan; but there is no doubt but that a strong Persian force is operating on, and partly within, the frontier of the Kelat State, and that this force is levying contributions and carrying off cattle from the Khan's subjects.

5. The Khan of Kelat is assembling a force at Nooskey, and is also about to dispatch as large an army as he can collect without much delay, to the more western part of his dominions, Punjgoor, in the province of Kedj Mekran, in which quarter he appears to dread invasion from the Persian force near Jelluck, even more than in the north.

6. The Khan's authority is well established in Kedj Mekran, and up to his frontier line. Nooskey is about 100, and Punjgoor about 300 miles from the town of Kelat.

7. I have ascertained that the most acceptable assistance (irrespective of aid by troops) we could afford the Khan, and that most likely to be effective, would be an immediate supply of arms and money.

8. I would, therefore, advise that 2,000 percussion muskets and bayonets, with 200 rounds of ammunition for each, and a large proportion of percussion caps, and the sum of (Rs. 1,00,000) one lac of rupees, be presented to his Highness the Khan of Kelat, as soon as possible.

9. I would also recommend that four mountain field-pieces (three-pounders) complete, with 200 rounds of ammunition each, be also presented to his Highness. If this suggestion be approved by his Lordship in Council, these guns can be supplied at once from the arsenal in Scinde.

10. The Vakeel of his Highness the Khan of Kelat has also introdueed, in his application for assistanee, the subject of military aid by the co-operation of our troops, and pointed out that however valuable assistance in arms and money might be, and grateful as his master would be for such aid, still the presence of a British force, however small, acting in co-operation with the troops of his Highness the Khan, would be invaluable, would make the Belooch soldiers irresistible, and do more than all else to command success.

11. The Vakeel, continually remarking that nothing was demanded as a right, but entirely as favour, next observed, that in the late Treaty a clause existed to the effect, that should the British Government at any time wish to establish cantonments in any part of the Kelat dominions, they were at full liberty to do so; and although the British Government might not think it advisable at present to send troops actually to co-operate with those of Kelat, still possibly it might not be thought objectionable to form a British camp at some convenient place in the Kelat territory above the Bolaun, such as Quetta.

12. The establishing of a British camp in such a position would, the Vakeel represented, be of the greatest assistance to the Khan in repelling his present assailants, and would, as the Khan was well assured, prevent the recurrence of such attacks and invasions of his country by the Persians, or any other Power, in future.

13. The Vakeel earnestly begged, in the name of his master, that this subject might be taken into the serious consideration of the Governor-General of India in Council.

14. I have requested the Kelat Government to ascertain and forward, as soon as possible, to the Political Superintendent on the frontier, for transmission to me, full particulars regarding the strength, constitution, proceedings, &c., of the Persian forces; which, on receipt, I will submit without delay for the information of his Lordship in Council.

15. A copy of this letter will be transmitted for the information of the Governor of Bombay in Council.

I have, &c.
(Signed) JOHN JACOB.

No. 137.

The Earl of Clarendon to Mr. Murray.

Sir, *Foreign Office, October* 10, 1856.

I TRANSMIT to you herewith, in an unsealed packet, a letter which I have addressed to the Persian Minister for Foreign Affairs, in reply to a letter from the Sadr Azim, of which I inclose an English translation for your information.*

I also inclose a copy of my letter to the Minister for Foreign Affairs,† and I have to instruct you to cause an accurate translation of it to be made and placed in the same cover with the original, and then forwarded as soon as possible to Tehran.

Mr. Consul Stevens will probably have left Tehran before my letter could arrive there, and it will be for you to determine how you can best ensure the letter reaching Tehran in safety, and the time at which it should do so, in order that no impediment may, in consequence of its contents, be opposed to the progress of Mr. Stevens and his family on his way out of Persia.

I am, &c.
(Signed) CLARENDON.

No. 138.

The Earl of Clarendon to the Persian Minister for Foreign Affairs.

Foreign Office, October 10, 1856.

THE Undersigned, &c., had the honour to receive, on the 25th of September, the letter which the Sadr Azim, Prime Minister of His Majesty the Shah of Persia, addressed to him on the 17th of August, having reference to the letter which the Undersigned addressed to the Sadr Azim on the 11th of July, on the subject of the proceedings of the Persian Government in regard to Herat, but containing no answer to that letter.

Her Majesty's Government had hoped that the letter of the Undersigned would have elicited from the Persian Government a distinct assurance that

* See page 180. † No. 138.

that Government would at once desist from the enterprise which it had undertaken against Herat, in violation of solemn engagements entered into with the British Government in former times, and in defiance of the often-expressed determination of the British Government not to tolerate any interference on the part of Persia with the States of Affghanistan, and not to allow the extension of the authority or the territory of Persia in that quarter. Her Majesty's Government had hoped that such assurance would have been given, and would have been followed up by the immediate withdrawal of the Persian armies from Affghan territory, and by complete reparation for the insults which had been offered to the British Government in the person of the Queen's Envoy, and which had led to the withdrawal of the British Mission from Persia.

If all this had been done, Her Majesty's Government would have been enabled to replace, on a friendly footing, its relations with the Court of the Shah.

Her Majesty's Government have been disappointed in these hopes and expectations. The redress demanded in the communication made by the British Ambassador at Constantinople to the Persian Chargé d'Affaires in that city, in the month of June last, for the insult offered to the British Mission, has not been afforded; the reparation required in the note of the Undersigned of July 11, for the disregard shown by Persia of her engagement as to Herat, has not been given: but instead of this, vain excuses and pretexts of delay have been put forward, and Her Majesty's Government have been told to expect satisfaction from the result of a negotiation, the conduct of which the Persian Government pretends to have confided to an Ambassador some time since appointed by the Shah to the Court of France.

But, in the meanwhile, the Persian Government has not been content even to let the questions in dispute remain without further aggravation. The insults which occasioned the withdrawal of the British Mission from Tehran have, since that period, been followed up by other insults to the British Government, which of themselves call for ample reparation.

The insults to which the Undersigned here more particularly refers, are, the prohibition of intercourse by subjects of the Shah with Her Majesty's Consul at Tehran; the violation of the engagement to pay to Syed Abdoollah, a British subject, an allowance which he was to receive as a commutation for a portion of his claims on the Government of Persia; the attempt on the part of the Sadr Azim to possess himself of the water long since assigned to the British Mission for its use at its summer encampment; the interception of the supplies of water ordinarily assigned to the British Mission in Tehran; the refusal to enforce the punishment of parties who committed a violent assault on one of the servants of the British Consul; the refusal to recognise the right of property of Her Majesty's Government in the British Consular residence; the expulsion from Asterabad of a person in the employment of the British Mission; the publication, in the public paper under the control of the Government of Persia, of injurious statements as regards the British Government; and lastly, the direct incentive held out to fanaticism to imitate against British subjects the conduct pursued at a former time, when the city of Tehran witnessed the massacre of the Representative of a foreign State by an infuriated mob.

All these transactions are publicly known throughout the Persian capital, and until the redress demanded for them shall have been given, and shall have been made as publicly known, it will be impossible for a British Mission to reside with security, still less with honour, at the Court of the Shah.

But even these transactions are of less account than the wanton disregard by the Persian Government of its engagement to abstain from any interference in the internal affairs of Herat, and from any attempt to occupy, or take possession, or assume the sovereignty or government, of that province.

There are indications, indeed, that before the British Mission retired from Tehran, intrigues were on foot to promote the views of aggrandizement which Persia has continually entertained in the direction of Herat. Persian forces were collected on the frontier of that State; and, as if more distinctly to evince the hostility of Persia towards Great Britain, even at this early stage of these transactions, the Persian Government selected for the command of those forces an officer, high in rank and nearly connected with the Royal Family, who had then lately rendered himself notorious by grossly indecent language applied by

him to the Sovereign of England at a public entertainment given to members of the Royal Family by the Vizier of Tehran.

From that period, the operations of the Persian forces have been pushed forward with unabated perseverance against the city, and in various quarters of the territory, of Herat; language of defiance against Great Britain has been openly held by the Persian Government, and demonstrations have been made of the intention of the Persian Government rather to engage in conflict with Great Britain, than to concede the just demands of the British Government; the Persian Government appearing to wish to display to the Persian people its indifference for the friendship of England, and its conviction that Persia has nothing to fear from the just resentment of Great Britain.

But the British Government can no longer passively submit to the insults and wrongs which it has received from the Government of Persia. An expedition, destined for Persia, is now about to leave the British territories, and whatever may result to Persia from this measure, which her Government has wantonly provoked, the responsibility thereof will rest on the evil counsellors of the Shah, who have led His Majesty to countenance insult and injury towards Great Britain, and to violate the solemn engagements of an international compact.

The Undersigned, &c. (Signed) CLARENDON.

No. 139.

Consul Abbott to the Earl of Clarendon.—(Received October 16.)

My Lord, *Tabreez, September* 10, 1856.

I HAVE the honour to inform your Lordship of a circumstance which, if anything further were required to exhibit the Sadr Azim's unfriendly feelings towards Englishmen, would suffice for this purpose.

The Sadr Azim has written to the Kaimakam that, a Russian subject having a small claim on a person named Koochook Khan, and the latter being supposed to be particularly well disposed towards the English and their Government, the Kaimakam is to seize upon, chain, imprison, and put him to the torture until he pays; adding that, "we shall then see who of the English will deliver him from our hands."

The Kaimakam, to his credit be it said, does not intend, I believe, to carry this order into effect, and Koochook Khan proposes to obtain permission to depart on a pilgrimage to Kerbella, to be out of the way of further molestation.

I have, &c.
(Signed) KEITH EDWD ABBOTT.

No. 140.

Lord Stratford de Redcliffe to the Earl of Clarendon.—(Received October 19.)

Therapia, October 18, 1856.

A PERSIAN officer has just called on me with compliments from Ferokh Khan, the long-expected Persian Ambassador, who appears to have arrived here yesterday on his way to Paris.

No. 141.

The Earl of Clarendon to Lord Stratford de Redcliffe.

(Extract.) *Foreign Office, October* 28, 1856.

YOUR Excellency may inform the Persian Ambassador that you are prepared to receive, in writing, any communication he may have to make respecting reparation to England.

If he makes such communication, you may then, in the manner you think most expedient, inform him that we require, as a *conditio sine quâ non*, the immediate withdrawal of the Persian troops from Herat and its territory, and the payment by Persia of compensation for all damages done by them therein;

2. That we further require that Persia shall enter into a Treaty with England, by which Persia will renounce all attempts of any kind to interfere with Herat, or with any portion of Affghanistan; will engage not to receive at any time overtures from any party to interfere in their internal affairs; will recognize their absolute and entire independence, and will agree to refer to British mediation any differences which she may hereafter have with them;

3. That Persia shall agree to negotiate and conclude with England a new Treaty of Commerce, by which all questions which have hitherto given occasion for discussion between the two Governments shall be settled, and the right be conceded to Great Britain of appointing Consuls in any part of Persia;

4. That all debts due to British subjects shall forthwith be paid, and an understanding come to on disputed claims;

5. That Persia shall make an arrangement respecting Bender Abbas satisfactory to the Imaum of Muscat, the friend of England;

6. That, in consideration of the part taken by the Sadr Azim in the late differences between the two countries, the Shah shall replace that Minister by some other person likely to promote a good understanding between England and Persia.

Upon the conclusion and ratification by the Shah of these engagements as regards Herat and Affghanistan, and the withdrawal of the whole of the Persian troops within the frontier of Khorassan, and upon the solemn engagement, under the seal of His Majesty, that, the sixth condition having been complied with, the remainder of the conditions shall be carried into effect within six months after the return of the British Mission to Tehran, and that the return of the Mission shall be attended with all the apologies and ceremonies already specified, except in so far as the removal of the Sadr Azim render them impracticable, the British Mission will return to Tehran; and within six months after the return of the Mission the British force will be withdrawn from the Persian territory.

The British Government reserves to itself the right to vary these conditions if not at once accepted, and especially to make the re-establishment of friendly relations with Persia dependent on the payment by Persia of the expenses of the measures of coercion now in progress.

No. 142.

Mr. Murray to the Earl of Clarendon.—(*Received October* 30.)

(Extract.) *Bagdad, September* 29, 1856.

I HAVE the honour to report, for your Lordship's information, that intelligence has reached me, from an unofficial quarter, that the Bender Abbas question, which has for so long been matter of dispute between the Imaum of Muscat and the Persian Government, has been settled, although on terms much more disadvantageous to the Imaum than those which were formerly under consideration. I have not yet learned the exact conditions of this arrangement.

No. 143.

Lord Stratford de Redcliffe to the Earl of Clarendon.—(*Received November* 13.)

(Extract.) *Therapia, November* 3, 1856.

I HAVE done myself the honour of acting on your Lordship's instructions directing the mode and conditions of my intercourse with Ferokh Khan, the Persian Ambassador.

I began by sending a message to the Persian Chargé d'Affaires respecting what he had stated to me, through Mr. Alison, as to the Ambassador's powers.

He admitted the correctness of the statement, and accompanied the bearers of my message to Ferokh Khan. Their report is inclosed in copy herewith. It is signed by Mr. Churchill as well as by Mr. Moore; the former having assisted at my request in virtue of his acquaintance with the Persian language.

Your Lordship will observe that the Ambassador has confirmed the Chargé d'Affaires' assertion, namely, that his Excellency has full powers to settle all the questions in dispute, with the view of giving complete satisfaction without delay. I have not, however, obtained as yet a declaration to that effect in writing. He wanted to see me in private, and I insist upon having his declaration fully expressed, signed, and sealed, before I give him a decided answer on that point.

Inclosed herewith is the substance of my instructions to Mr. Moore and Mr. Churchill.

Inclosure 1 in No. 143.

Memorandum.

Therapia, October 30, 1856.

IN consequence of the assurances given to me, through Mr. Alison, by the Persian Chargé d'Affaires, when he called at Therapia, and I was obliged to decline seeing him, to the effect that Ferokh Khan, the Persian Ambassador now at Constantinople on his way to Paris, has full powers to settle all questions in dispute between England and Persia, and give full satisfaction to the former without delay or reservation, I have obtained permission from my Government to receive any communication, of that purport, which his Excellency may have to make on the subject of such reparation.

Whatever communication his Excellency Ferokh Khan may think proper to make, it is requested that it be made to me in writing.

(Signed) S. DE R.

Inclosure 2 in No. 143.

Messrs. Moore and Churchill to Lord Stratford de Redcliffe.

My Lord, *Constantinople, October* 31, 1856.

IN obedience to your Excellency's instructions, Mr. Churchill and myself called upon the Persian Chargé d'Affaires, and read to him, in translation, your Excellency's Memorandum of the 30th instant.

Hadgi Meerza Ahmed Khan having assented to the truth of your Excellency's statement as to the purport of his assurances, he accompanied us to his Excellency Ferokh Khan, to whom, in accordance with your Lordship's instruction, the same translation of the Memorandum was read, and a copy was left with him at his request.

The Persian Ambassador desired me to convey to your Excellency the following answer in reply:—

"There are two questions in the Memorandum which you have read to me: in the first place, Lord Stratford wishes to know whether I have full powers to settle all questions in dispute between England and Persia? to which I reply: I have full powers to settle all questions in dispute between the two Governments, according to my own judgment, and without reference to my Court. In the second place, his Lordship asks, if I am ready to give 'full satisfaction' to the British Government, without delay or reservation? my answer is: that not knowing what the 'full satisfaction' in question is, I am not prepared to answer that point."

Ferokh Khan then requested us to communicate to your Excellency his wish to have a private interview with your Lordship, as he had reasons to hope that an interview of that nature would considerably facilitate an eventual settlement of the difficulties between the two Governments.

(Signed) L. MOORE.
HENRY A. CHURCHILL.

Inclosure 3 in No. 143.

Lord Stratford de Redcliffe to Mr. Churchill.

Therapia, November 3, 1856.

GO back immediately to Ferokh Khan, and get the written declaration he has stated himself to be ready to give. When I receive that paper, signed and sealed by him, I shall be free to consider favourably his application for an interview.

No. 144.

The Earl of Clarendon to Lord Stratford de Redcliffe.

My Lord, *Foreign Office, November* 14, 1856.

I HAVE received your Excellency's despatch of the 3rd instant, in which you report the steps taken by you on the receipt of my despatch of the 28th ultimo, setting forth the nature of the satisfaction which Her Majesty's Government demand from the Government of Persia; and I have to state to your Excellency that Her Majesty's Government approve your proceedings as reported in your despatch.

I am, &c.
(Signed) CLARENDON.

No. 145.

Consul Stevens to the Earl of Clarendon.—(Received November 20.)

(Extract.) *Camp near Tehran, October* 2, 1856.

THE Persian Government has just received the report of a sanguinary affair which occurred at Herat on or about the 30th August.

It appears that a number of Farsees, or residents of the Sheeah persuasion, having conspired with the Turkish Commanders, agreed to throw open one of the town-gates, and admit the soldiers. At a preconcerted signal, two battalions of Regular Infantry left their entrenchment, and approached the gate previously agreed upon. This was opened, and the soldiers effected an entrance, but they had scarcely done so before Essan Khan appeared with his Affghan forces. A hand-to-hand fight ensued, and resulted in the total defeat of the Persians, who fled back to the entrenchment in the greatest disorder, after suffering a considerable loss in killed and wounded. What these amounted to is not yet accurately known, but 240 heads were taken off inside the walls of the town; and during the retreat, the soldiers were shot down by the Affghans stationed on the ramparts.

The next day, the report continues, Essan Khan ordered the indiscriminate massacre of the Sheeah residents known or suspected of having shared in the conspiracy, a large number of whom were destroyed, while others were expelled from the place.

No. 146.

Consul Stevens to the Earl of Clarendon.—(Received November 20.)

My Lord, *Camp near Tehran, October* 2, 1856.

I HAVE the honour to inform your Lordship that Shahzadeh Mahomed Youssuf, the Prince who succeeded to the Chieftainship of Herat after the murder of Syed Mahomed Khan, was brought prisoner to Tehran three days ago.

The King ordered him to be placed in the dungeon known by the name of "Aumbar," used for criminals of the lowest description, but, on the intercession of the Prime Minister, he was placed in a less degrading prison, the Topkhana.

Your Lordship may probably remember that the Persian Government, in announcing an expedition to Herat, declared its object to be to assist this same Shahzadeh Mahomed Youssuf against an apprehended attack on the part of Dost Mahomed Khan.

I have, &c.
(Signed) RICH. W. STEVENS.

No. 147.

Consul Stevens to the Earl of Clarendon.—(Received November 20.)

(Extract.) *Camp near Tehran, October 8, 1856.*

THE Persian Government received, on the 6th instant, intelligence of the submission to its authority of the town of Furrah, on the approach of the forces commanded by Aga Khan, who, after placing a Governor there, returned to Subzar.

I presume the Affghan garrison reported as being at Furrah under a son of the Ameer Dost Mahomed Khan had previously retired.

On the 5th instant, Shahzadeh Mahomed Youssuf, whose arrival in Tehran, a prisoner, I have already reported to your Lordship, was conducted by the public executioner to the presence of the Shah, who inquired of him why he had murdered His Majesty's faithful servant Syed Mahomed Khan; and also, why, after soliciting the assistance of a Persian army, he had refused to put it in possession of Herat.

The Prince replied, that he had been opposed by the Affghan residents, who had deceived him, and that he was not, while among them, master of his own actions.

The Shah rejoined that the Prince deserved to suffer death, but the Sadr Azim having interceded for him, his life would be spared.

The Prince was then reconducted to prison.

On the 6th a grand Durbar was held on the occasion of the King's birthday. It is usual for His Majesty to make a sort of speech, and the theme selected on this occasion was Herat. The Shah informed the assembly that reinforcements of troops would proceed to that place; that Nadir Shah had besieged it for a year before capturing it, and that, therefore, there was nothing extraordinary in the Persian army being now obliged to do the same for a few months; that His Majesty would not relinquish the intention of annexing Herat to his dominions.

No. 148.

Consul Stevens to the Earl of Clarendon.—(Received November 20.)

My Lord, *Camp near Tehran, October 18, 1856.*

I HAVE the honour to inform your Lordship that a Council of Princes and Nobles was held in the King's presence, on the 15th instant, to discuss the impending rupture between Persia and Great Britain, and the steps necessary to adopt in the now probable contingency of the arrival of British forces in the Persian Gulf.

The Shah opened the discussion by repeating his fixed determination not to relinquish the intention of possessing himself of Herat; and declared, moreover, that he would persist in this, even if it should entail the loss of his Throne.

As usual in this country (whatever opinions may be privately entertained), all present responded to the Royal sentiment, and one and all declared their devotion and readiness to sacrifice their lives and property in supporting

the war with the English, whose Indian troops were alluded to in terms of contempt.

Commanders-in-chief were selected for the armies in Fars, in Khuzistan, and in Kirman, whither regiments are to be sent as they can be prepared; the latter measure would indicate a suspicion of some demonstration being intended from Upper Scinde; 500 horseloads of gunpowder, and a few field-pieces, have been sent off to Shiraz. A circular addressed to the clergy in the Provinces, calling upon them to prepare for a religious war ("jehaud"), and instructions, were drawn up, enjoining the destruction of all towns and villages within a distance of twenty-five miles of any part of the coast which may be threatened by British forces.

The King talked of going to Meshed, and there rallying his forces for a march to Affghanistan and India, and of sending the Generalissimo (Ameer Nizam) of the army, His Majesty's second son, to assume the supreme military command, and at the same time keep up the Royal prestige in the south. His Royal Highness, being only four years old, will not prove a very formidable adversary to encounter.

I have, &c.
(Signed) RICH. W. STEVENS.

No. 149.

Consul Abbott to the Earl of Clarendon.—(*Received November* 20.)

(Extract.) *Tabreez, October* 23, 1856.

I HAD the honour of receiving on the 20th instant, your Lordship's despatch of September 22, directing me to break up Her Majesty's Consulate, and retire from Tabreez to Bagdad.

I had then just started my family off towards the Russian frontier, on their way to Trebizond, in company with the family of Mr. Stevens, Her Majesty's Consul at Tehran; at the second stage from this, Mrs. Stevens was attacked by cholera (which has appeared here since the 15th instant), and died the same day, leaving three helpless children, who now proceed under charge of my wife; but the latter has two young children of her own, is herself in weak health, and has been deserted by her female attendant at the last hour; I am, therefore, under the necessity of so far departing from your Lordship's instructions, by proceeding at once to overtake my family and conduct them to Trebizond, instead of going direct to Bagdad, and I hope to leave this to-morrow.

I trust this deviation from the precise instructions your Lordship has given me, may be pardoned in consideration of the difficult circumstances in which my family is placed; I could not allow my family to proceed without my escort on such a journey since the death of Mrs. Stevens, and there are many difficulties and some dangers to be encountered on the way. I feel confident of your Lordship's indulgence in such a case, and am further assured by the previous permission your Lordship gave to me to escort my family out of Persia if necessary.

From Trebizond I propose proceeding to Bagdad, by way of Samsoon and Moossul.

Your Lordship directs me to place any British subjects who are not disposed to accompany me out of Persia, under the protection of the French Consul; but no such functionary has ever resided here, and the few English subjects at Tabreez prefer applying to the Russian Consul-General for his protection, which he is ready to give them.

I shall forward, by a safe opportunity, the archives of Her Majesty's Consulate here, to that at Erzeroom, there being no means at present of sending them to Bagdad.

I shall carefully attend to all the other instructions given me by your Lordship.

No. 150.

Consul Abbott to the Earl of Clarendon.—(Received November 20.)

(Extract.) *Tabreez, October 23, 1856.*

I HAVE the honour to inform your Lordship that orders have just arrived from Tehran, of an urgent nature, for the dispatch of five regiments to the capital, which number, however, includes one regiment previously ordered in that direction, but which has never marched.

No. 151.

The Earl of Shelburne to Consul Abbott.

Sir, *Foreign Office, November 25, 1856.*

I AM directed by the Earl of Clarendon to acknowledge the receipt of your despatch of the 23rd ultimo,* reporting your proceedings in carrying out the instruction which you had received to withdraw from Tabreez, and explaining the circumstances under which you were about to accompany your family to Trebizond, instead of proceeding directly to Bagdad.

I am to state to you, in reply, that Lord Clarendon approves your proceedings as reported in your despatch; but his Lordship has no wish to separate you from your family, and you are, consequently authorized, if you wish it, to remain with your family at Trebizond, instead of proceeding to Bagdad.

I am, &c.

(Signed) SHELBURNE.

No. 152.

Lord Stratford de Redcliffe to the Earl of Clarendon.—(Received November 25.)

(Extract.) *Therapia, November 10, 1856.*

MY communications with Ferokh Khan, in virtue of your Lordship's instruction, are hitherto by no means satisfactory with respect to its conditions. What I have obtained from him in writing is defective as compared with the oral promises, both as respects his powers, and as respects the terms of compliance. Such as the papers are, I transmit them herewith to your Lordship.

Inclosure 1 in No. 152.

Ferokh Khan to Lord Stratford de Redcliffe.

(Translation.) 4 *Rebiul-evvel*, 1273.

MAY his Excellency the possessor of greatness, the exalted in rank and station, the sufficient and responsible by birth, the friendly, the kind, dear and great Lord Stratford de Redcliffe, Ambassador Extraordinary of the exalted Government of England, be pleased to cast his eyes (on this).

O Excellency, possessor of greatness, exalted in rank and station! O the Friendly! O the Kind! O the Great!

Your Excellency has desired of me in writing the degrees of power of him who bears friendship. This is it that extreme trouble (to your Excellency) is given about. That I have from the Persian Government the full power to discuss with your Excellency the question of coolness between the two Governments of Persia and England, and I feel great pleasure in being ready to send to your Excellency any resolution for the preservation and duration of friendship between the two Governments proper to the position of both sides.

(L.S.) FEROKH KHAN.

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* No. 149.

Inclosure 2 in No. 152.

Lord Stratford de Redcliffe to Mr. Churchill.

Therapia, November 4, 1856.

TELL the Persian Ambassador that his letter does not, by any means, contain what he and the Chargé d'Affaires led me to expect. I require a written declaration, signed and sealed by him, that he has full powers to settle all pending differences with England, and to give complete satisfaction without delay. Without such declaration I can hold no further intercourse with his Excellency.

Inclosure 3 in No. 152.

Mr. Churchill to Lord Stratford de Redcliffe.

Constantinople, November 5, 1856.

I HAVE communicated your Excellency's message to Ferokh Khan, and his answer is, that he considers his written declaration of the 3rd instant as quite sufficient; that he has, however, no objection to give another document corresponding with the terms contained in your Excellency's despatch to me, with the exception of the phrase relative to "complete satisfaction without delay." He appeals to your Lordship's impartiality, and asks if it is possible for an Ambassador to bind himself down to accept, on the part of his Government, propositions as yet unknown to him, and that "without delay." Ferokh Khan adds, that after an interview and explanation on both sides, he will undoubtedly do his utmost to satisfy the British Government. He has begged me to transmit these explanations to your Excellency, and bring him back an answer. I have obtained from Ferokh Khan a translation in French of the declaration of the 3rd instant, which I have the honour to inclose for your Excellency's information.

Inclosure 4 in No. 152.

Declaration.

Le 4 *Rebiul-evvel,* 1273.

VOTRE Excellence a voulu que je lui dise, par écrit, quels sont mes pouvoirs. J'ai l'honneur de vous déclarer que j'ai, de la part du Gouvernement Persan, des pleins pouvoirs pour entrer en négociation avec votre Excellence au sujet du différend qui existe entre la Perse et l'Angleterre; et c'est avec le plus vif empressement que je suis prêt de signer, avec le consentement de votre Excellence, pour la conservation de l'amitié de ces deux Puissances, tout arrangement qui serait convenable à l'état de ces deux Gouvernements.

(Signé) MEERZA MALCUM KHAN.

Inclosure 5 in No. 152.

Ferokh Khan to Lord Stratford de Redcliffe.

(Translation.)

Excellency, 4 *Rebiul-evvel,* 1273. (*November* 3, 1856.)

YOUR Excellency has desired to be made acquainted in writing with my powers. I therefore do myself the honour to state to your Lordship that I have received from the Persian Government full powers to discuss with your Excellency the question of coolness existing between the two Governments of Persia and England; and I feel great pleasure in being able to sign with

your Excellency any agreement calculated to promote the preservation and duration of friendship between the two Governments, and not derogatory to their dignity.

(L.S.) FEROKH KHAN.

No. 153.

The Earl of Clarendon to Lord Stratford de Redcliffe.

My Lord, *Foreign Office, November 27, 1856.*

I HAVE to state to your Excellency that Her Majesty's Government approve of your communications with the Persian Ambassador, as reported in your despatch of the 10th instant.

I am, &c.
(Signed) CLARENDON.

No. 154.

Lord Stratford de Redcliffe to the Earl of Clarendon.—(*Received December 6.*)

(Extract.) *Therapia, November 16, 1856.*

I HAVE had some further communications with Ferokh Khan, the Persian Ambassador.

Like those which preceded, they have led to no satisfactory result.

Inclosure 1 in No. 154.

Mr. Moore to Lord Stratford de Redcliffe.

(Extract.) *Pera, November 14, 1856.*

I HAVE the honour to forward herewith Ferokh Khan's answer to your Excellency's last communication, together with a French translation furnished by the Persian Mission.

Inclosure 2 in No. 154.

Ferokh Khan to Lord Stratford de Redcliffe.

(Traduction.)

COMME mon but est que l'arrangement que j'aurai l'honneur de faire avec votre Excellence pour l'aplanissement du différend qui existe entre nos deux Gouvernements, soit stable et exempt de tout changement, je crois nécessaire de demander à votre Excellence si le Gouvernement Anglais a transmis ses propositions au Gouvernement Persan en lui demandant une réponse. Dans le cas où le Gouvernement Anglais aurait demandé directement une réponse au Gouvernement Persan, il serait nécessaire que nous attendions la réponse de Téhéran; et si après ma mission pour l'arrangement de la question actuelle, aucune proposition n'a été faite de la part du Gouvernement Anglais au Gouvernement Persan, je prie votre Excellence de me le déclarer par écrit, afin que je puisse agir avec certitude et faire avec le plus vif empressement tout ce qui dépendrait des efforts de mon Gouvernement pour satisfaire l'Angleterre, qui est une grande Puissance et qui est l'ancienne amie de la Perse.

(Translation.)

AS my object is, that the arrangement which I shall have the honour to make with your Excellency for smoothing the difference which exists between the two Governments should be lasting, and not open to alteration, I think it

necessary to ask your Excellency whether the English Government has transmitted these propositions to the Persian Government, and required from it an answer. If the English Government has demanded a direct answer from the Persian Government, it will be necessary that we should await that answer from Tehran; and if since my mission for the arrangement of the question at issue no proposition has been made on the part of the English Government to the Persian Government, I beg your Excellency to state the fact to me in writing, so that I shall be able to act with certainty and do with the greatest promptitude all that depends on the endeavours of my Government to satisfy England, which is a great Power and the old friend of Persia.

Inclosure 3 in No. 154.

Lord Stratford de Redcliffe to Mr. Moore.

Sir, *Therapia, November* 14, 1856.

I SEND you a Declaration in the sense required by Ferokh Khan.

You will make its contents known to him orally, word for word, and consign it to him on his giving you, at the same time, a satisfactory and distinct reply, in writing, to my demand, communicated to his Excellency by you and Mr. Churchill, respecting the immediate evacuation of Herat and its territory by the Persian troops, and the payment of a compensation for the damages done by them there.

His declaration is to be so worded as to engage his Government to the execution of its purport.

I have, &c.
(Signed) STRATFORD DE REDCLIFFE.

Inclosure 4 in No. 154.

Declaration.

Therapia, November 15, 1856.

I DECLARE that no demand requiring an answer has, to my knowledge, been addressed directly by the British Government to the Persian Government since the Earl of Clarendon's letter to the Sadr Azim, who, in reply, referred to the powers with which his Excellency Ferokh Khan was stated to be furnished.

(Signed) STRATFORD DE REDCLIFFE.

Inclosure 5 in No. 154.

Mr. Moore to Lord Stratford de Redcliffe.

My Lord, *Pera, November* 16, 1856.

IN conformity with your Excellency's instruction of the 15th instant, I called upon Ferokh Khan, and made known to him orally the contents of your Excellency's Declaration.

The Persian Ambassador desired me to convey to your Excellency, with all respect, the following observations in reply:—

1st. He wishes to know whether an ultimatum has been sent to Tehran by the British Government, and begs that your Excellency will be pleased to return an official answer to this question.

2ndly. He objects to the words, "to my knowledge," in your Excellency's Declaration, on account of the uncertainty implied.

3rdly. That your Excellency's Declaration being destitute of any address, he could not accept it as an official answer to his last official letter; and,

4thly. That if your Excellency consents to forward him an official answer, which should be satisfactory, as regards the above-mentioned points, he would

not ask that it should be delivered into his hands before he had returned an answer relative to the evacuation of Herat.

In consequence of Ferokh Khan's unwillingness to return "a satisfactory and distinct reply in writing" to your Excellency's demand as to Herat, I did not leave your Declaration with him, but inclose it herein, together with the other papers.

I have, &c.
(Signed) LIONEL MOORE.

Inclosure 6 in No. 154.

Lord Stratford de Redcliffe to Mr. Moore.

(Extract.) *Therapia, November* 16, 1856.

IN consequence of what you have reported to me this morning as the result of your last communication with Ferokh Khan, I desire that you will lose no time in calling upon his Excellency again, and saying to him, on my part, word for word, what follows:

There is nothing to add to my declaration, and I repeat the demand which preceded it. The Declaration, in my handwriting, signed and dated by me, is presented to the Ambassador by an officer of this Embassy. Until I receive from him the engagement in writing, for which, at his request, the Declaration was made, it is idle for me to hold any further communication with him. He is the best judge, under responsibility, of his own duties and the interests of his Court.

No. 155.

Lord Stratford de Redcliffe to the Earl of Clarendon.—(*Received December* 6.)

(Extract.) *Therapia, November* 23, 1856.

INCLOSED herewith, in copy, for your information, are such additional instructions, reports, and declarations as have passed on the subject of the Persian negotiations, since I had last the honour of addressing your Lordship. Ferokh Khan is to call here to-morrow, and to give me his answer to the terms of arrangement which I have made known to him in writing, as those prescribed by Her Majesty's Government.

Inclosure 1 in No. 155.

Ferokh Khan's Declaration to Lord Stratford de Redcliffe.

(Traduction.)

Après les Titres. *Le 9 Novembre*, 1856.

AYANT reçu la communication de votre Excellence concernant Hérat, je déclare de la manière la plus formelle, que je suis prêt à vous donner les assurances les plus complètes pour l'évacuation de Hérat, et à faire avec votre Excellence sur ce point un arrangement qui soit satisfaisant pour l'Angleterre et en même temps propre à assurer la tranquillité des frontières de la Perse.

Quant à la compensation des dommages des habitants de Hérat, comme jusqu'à présent il n'a jamais été question de cette proposition, et que le Gouvernement Persan ne croyait point que le Gouvernement Anglais aurait jamais fait une pareille proposition, je n'ai point d'instruction relative à cette question; cependant, après avoir vu votre Excellence, et après nous être entendus sur ce point, je m'empresserai à le transmettre à Téhéran, et il y a lieu à espérer que les Ministres Persans chercheront, autant qu'il leur sera possible, à prendre en considération tout ce qui est nécessaire pour la conservation de l'amitié de l'Angleterre.

(Translation.)

After Titles. *November* 9, 1856.

HAVING received the communication from your Excellency concerning Herat, I declare, in the most formal manner, that I am ready to give you the most complete assurances as to the evacuation of Herat, and to make with your Excellency on this point an arrangement which shall be satisfactory to England, and, at the same time, calculated to insure the tranquillity of the Persian frontier.

With regard to the compensation for the damages done to the inhabitants of Herat, as there has never yet been any question of this proposition, and as the Persian Government did not anticipate that the English Government would have ever made such a proposition, I have no instructions relative to this question; but after having seen your Excellency, and after having come to an agreement with you upon it on this point, I will hasten to transmit such agreement to Tehran, and there is reason to hope that the Persian Ministers will endeavour, as far as possible, to take into consideration everything that is requisite for the preservation of friendship with England.

Inclosure 2 in No. 155.

Lord Stratford de Redcliffe to Mr. Moore.

(Extract.) *Therapia, November* 20, 1856.

I HAVE received your report dated yesterday, forwarding to me Ferokh Khan's written answer to my message to his Excellency through you. The literal purport of that message was, that he should be "prepared to pledge his Government officially to the immediate withdrawal of the Persian troops from Herat and its territory, and to the payment of compensation for all damages done by them therein." Although his Excellency's answer is wanting in clearness, you may give him the Declaration which I conditionally promised; but you will state to him, at the same time, that being now directed by express orders from Her Majesty's Government to break off all intercourse with him and his Government, and to refer them to General Outram, the Commander-in-chief of the British expedition to Persia, unless our present communications are brought to an immediate and satisfactory conclusion, I cannot consent to receive him, and complete our communications as to the whole ultimatum, unless he states to me officially, by way of explanation, that he is prepared to accept, without any kind of condition, my demand, as stated above, respecting Herat.

Inclosure 3 in No. 155.

Ferokh Khan's Declaration about Herat.

(Traduction.) *Ce* 23 *Rebiul-evvel,* 1273.

J'AI l'honneur de vous déclarer formellement que je suis prêt à engager officiellement le Gouvernement Persan à la retraite immédiate de ses troupes de Hérat et de son territoire, et en outre je suis prêt à faire avec votre Excellence un arrangement satisfaisant concernant le paiement de la compensation des dommages des Hératicns.

(L.S.) FEROKH KHAN.

(Translation.)

23 *Rebiul-evvel,* 1273.

I HAVE the honour formally to declare to you that I am ready officially to engage the Persian Government immediately to withdraw its troops from Herat and its territory; and, moreover, I am ready to enter into a satisfactory arrangement with your Excellency concerning the payment of compensation for damages done to the people of Herat.

(L.S.) FEROKH KHAN.

Inclosure 4 in No. 155.

Lord Stratford de Redcliffe to Mr. Moore.

Sir, *Therapia, November* 21, 1856.

IMMEDIATELY on the receipt of this instruction, you will take Mr. Churchill with you, and wait on the Persian Ambassador.

You will inform his Excellency that, being satisfied with his declaration respecting Herat, I no longer object to receiving him, though he can hardly fail to agree with me that an interview will be more opportune after his acceptation of the remaining conditions, for which he has been prepared, and which are already fully stated in the accompanying Memorandum.

The Memorandum, translated into French from the original instruction, is to be carefully explained to Ferokh Khan by you, with the assistance of Mr. Churchill. If his Excellency is prepared to accept the conditions thus drawn out, a single meeting will suffice to give them the appropriate form of an agreement, binding on both parties, and it cannot be necessary for me to point out the importance of dispatch with reference to the interests of Persia. Her Majesty's Government reserve their right to alter these conditions if they are not accepted at once, and to demand compensation for the expense of carrying into effect the indispensable measures now in progress.

You will read and explain to his Excellency with care the whole of this instruction, after he shall have been put in possession of the conditions required from Persia.

I have, &c.
(Signed) STRATFORD DE REDCLIFFE.

Inclosure 5 in No. 155.

Memorandum for Ferokh Khan.

LA Perse s'engage à retirer immédiatement de Hérat et de son territoire toutes les troupes Persanes, et à payer une compensation pour tous les dommages qu'elles y auront faits.

2. La Perse s'engagera envers l'Angleterre par un Traité formel à renoncer à toute prétention, de quelle nature qu'elle puisse être, d'intervenir dans les affaires de Hérat, ou de toute partie quelconque de l'Affghanistan, à ne recevoir dans aucun temps des ouvertures tendantes à la faire intervenir dans leurs affaires intérieures, à reconnaître leur indépendance absolue, et à rapporter à la médiation de l'Angleterre tout différend que la Perse pourrait avoir désormais avec eux.

3. La Perse négociera et conclura un nouveau Traité de Commerce avec l'Angleterre, au moyen duquel tout différend qui s'est élevé entre les deux Gouvernements sera arrangé, et le droit de nommer des Consuls en quelque partie que ce soit des territoires Persans sera accordé à l'Angleterre.

4. Toutes les dettes dues aux sujets Britanniques seront payées de suite, et l'on s'entendra par rapport aux réclamations contestées.

5. La Perse fera un arrangement relatif à Bender Abbas de manière à contenter l'Imaum de Muscat, l'ami de l'Angleterre.

6. Sa Majesté le Schah, considérant la part qu'a prise le Sadr Azim actuel dans les différends qui ont éclaté en dernier lieu entre les deux pays, le disgraciera, et nommera à sa place un Ministre plus disposé à maintenir la bonne entente entre l'Angleterre et la Perse.

Les dits engagements, en ce qui regarde Hérat et Affghanistan, et la retraite de toutes les troupes Persanes en deça de la frontière de Khorassan, étant conclus et certifiés par le Schah, et Sa Majesté ayant pris l'engagement solennel muni de son cachet, que, la sixième condition ayant été remplie, les autres conditions susdites seront mises à exécution dans un délai de six mois après le retour de la Mission Britannique à Téhéran, et que le retour de la Mission sera accompagnée de toutes les apologies et de toutes les cérémonies déjà spécifiées, à l'exception de celles que le renvoi du Sadr Azim actuel mettra hors de question, la Mission Britannique retournera à Téhéran, et les forces Britanniques seront retirées du territoire Persan dans un délai qui n'excédera pas le terme de six mois après le retour de la Mission.

(T anslation.)

PERSIA engages immediately to withdraw all the Persian troops from Herat and its territory, and to pay compensation for all damages done by them therein.

2. Persia shall enter into a formal Treaty with England, by which Persia will renounce all pretensions of any kind to interfere in the affairs of Herat, or of any portion of Affghanistan; will engage not to receive, at any time, overtures to interfere in their internal affairs; will recognise their absolute independence; and will agree to refer to British mediation any differences which Persia may hereafter have with them.

3. Persia shall negotiate and conclude a new Treaty of Commerce with England, by which all questions which have hitherto given rise to discussion between the two Governments shall be settled, and the right be conceded to England of appointing Consuls in any part of Persia.

4. All debts due to British subjects shall forthwith be paid, and an understanding come to on disputed claims.

5. Persia shall make an arrangement respecting Bender Abbas, satisfactory to the Imaum of Muscat, the friend of England.

6. His Majesty the Shah, in consideration of the part taken by the Sadr Azim in the late differences between the two countries, shall dismiss him, and replace him by a Minister more likely to maintain a good understanding between England and Persia.

Upon the conclusion and ratification by the Shah of these engagements as regards Herat and Affghanistan, and the withdrawal of the whole of the Persian troops within the frontier of Khorassan, and upon the solemn engagement, under the seal of His Majesty, that the sixth condition having been complied with, the remainder of the conditions shall be carried into effect six months after the return of the British Mission to Tehran, and that the return of the Mission shall be attended with all the apologies and ceremonies already specified, except those which the removal of the Sadr Azim renders impracticable, the British Mission will return to Tehran, and the British forces will be withdrawn from the Persian territory within a period not exceeding six months after the return of the Mission.

Inclosure 6 in No. 155.

Mr. Moore to Lord Stratford de Redcliffe.

My Lord, *Pera, November* 22, 1856.

IN compliance with your Excellency's instruction, under date of the 21st instant, which only reached me to-day, Mr. Churchill and myself waited upon Ferokh Khan.

We informed him that your Lordship was satisfied with his declaration respecting Herat; that you no longer objected to see him; and observed to him that an interview would be more opportune after his acceptance of the remaining conditions as stated in the Memorandum.

Mr. Churchill and myself proceeded then to explain to Ferokh Khan the contents of the Memorandum, and pointed out to him the necessity of dispatch in the interest of Persia; and concluded by saying that Her Majesty's Government reserve their right to alter these conditions, if they were not accepted at once, and to demand compensation for the expense of carrying into effect the indispensable measures now in progress.

The Persian Ambassador desired us to give him a copy of the Memorandum, which we refused to do, not having been instructed by your Excellency to comply with a similar request. His Excellency then begged us to telegraph to your Excellency his request to be furnished with a copy of the Memorandum. He also named Tuesday, with your Excellency's consent, as the day upon which he purposed to visit you at Therapia, and to give your Excellency the answer to the conditions contained in the Memorandum.

I have, &c.

(Signed) LIONEL MOORE.

No. 156.

Consul Stevens to the Earl of Clarendon.—(*Received December* 10.)

(Extract.) *Tehran, October* 25, 1856.

CALLING upon the Turkish Chargé d'Affaires yesterday afternoon, I found him mounting his horse to visit me for the purpose of communicating an official message on the part of the Sadr Azim, who had requested him to say to me that if the Persian Government were furnished with a written assurance that the British Government would prevent the Ameer Dost Mahomed Khan from either marching upon or occupying Herat, the Persian army now there would be immediately recalled.

I told the Ottoman Agent that my instructions from your Lordship strictly forbade me from holding any direct or indirect communication with the Persian Government on political subjects, and that I must therefore decline taking any notice of the message which had been confided to him.

Your Lordship will no doubt have in mind that by the concluding part of the 6th Article of the bilateral arrangement of January 1853, Her Majesty's Government is in a way bound to exercise some such interference in the event of Herat being ever menaced by Affghan troops from Candahar or Cabul.

The Persian Foreign Office has been busily engaged for some days past in drawing up a long narrative (supported by vouchers) respecting this particular cause of difference between Persia and England. The document will be transmitted this evening to the Persian Resident Minister at St. Petersburgh for communication to the Russian Government. I am informed, on good authority, that among the documents upon which the Persian Government founds its claim to consider the arrangement of 1853 regarding Herat as null and void, or rather as not strictly binding upon this country, are two letters said to have been addressed by Sir Justin Sheil, one dated the 28th January, 1853, to the Foreign Minister, and another of the 31st January following, to the Sadr Azim, in which Sir Justin declares that he shall consider himself at perfect liberty to hold intercourse with Herat, to send agents there, to treat with its Chief as an independent Prince, &c.; in fact, to do, in regard to Herat, whatever he pleases, without consulting the Persian Government, although it may be in entire opposition to the spirit of the VIth Article of the Convention, signed by him and the Sadr Azim a fortnight or so before. If these letters are authentic, copies of them will, I presume, exist at the Foreign Office.

No. 157.

The Earl of Clarendon to Lord Stratford de Redcliffe.

My Lord, *Foreign Office, December* 11, 1856.

HER Majesty's Government entirely approve of your Excellency's proceedings in the matter of Persian affairs, as reported in your despatch of the 23rd ultimo.

I am, &c.
(Signed) CLARENDON.

No. 158.

Lord Stratford de Redcliffe to the Earl of Clarendon.—(*Received December* 11.)

(Extract.) *Therapia, November* 30, 1856.

INCLOSED herewith, for the information of Her Majesty's Government, are copies of such further correspondence as I have had with or concerning the Persian Ambassador since I had last the honour of addressing your Lordship on that subject.

Inclosure 1 in No. 158.

Lord Stratford de Redcliffe to Mr. Moore.

(Extract.) *Therapia, November* 25, 1856.

I HAVE to request that you will call this morning on Ferokh Khan. The translation of his second Declaration will be the motive of your visit, joined with his delivery of the further Declaration promised yesterday respecting satisfaction to Mr. Murray and his Mission. I expect it to be a full, unqualified engagement that his Government will execute all the conditions prescribed by the ultimatum forwarded from me to the Sadr Azim through the Persian Chargé d'Affaires early in the last summer. With the two Declarations in hand to my satisfaction, I will not refuse to submit his proposal of referring to his Court by a special messenger, to return with a definitive answer in forty days, he, Ferokh Khan, remaining here till then.

Inclosure 2 in No. 158.

Mr. Moore to Lord Stratford de Redcliffe.

(Extract.) *Pera, November* 26, 1856.

ON the receipt of your Excellency's instruction of the 25th instant, Mr. Churchill and myself called on the Persian Ambassador.

We informed Ferokh Khan that with the two satisfactory Declarations in your Excellency's hands, that is to say, the Declaration promised by him respecting Mr. Murray and his Mission, and the Declaration already in your Excellency's possession, concerning the evacuation of Herat and the payment of indemnity to its inhabitants, you would not refuse to submit to Her Majesty's Government his proposal of referring to his Court by a special messenger, to return with a definitive answer in forty days, he, Ferokh Khan, remaining here till then.

Ferokh Khan observed to us that he did not perceive any serious impediment to his acceptance of the ultimatum sent to his Court through the Persian Chargé d'Affaires here in the early part of last summer; but that he would return an answer in writing to your Excellency to-morrow, regarding it. He promised, at the same time, to inform you whether he could dispatch a special messenger with the further conditions to Tehran, and wait here for his Government's instructions.

I have the honour to inclose, herewith, Ferokh Khan's second Declaration, accompanied by a French translation furnished by the Persian Embassy, respecting the evacuation of Herat by the Shah's forces since its surrender to the Persian troops.

Ferokh Khan is anxious to have a copy of the ultimatum sent to Tehran last summer regarding Mr. Murray and the Mission.

Inclosure 3 in No. 158.

Ferokh Khan to Lord Stratford de Redcliffe.

Excellence, *Le* 26 *Novembre*, 1856.

J'AI eu l'honneur de vous déclarer par écrit que j'étais prêt à engager officiellement le Gouvernement Persan à la retraite immédiate de ses troupes de Hérat et de son territoire, et qu'en outre j'étais prêt à faire avec votre Excellence un arrangement satisfaisant concernant le payement des dommages des Hératicns. Depuis lors j'ai appris par une dépêche officielle que les troupes de Sa Majesté le Schah avaient pris possession de Hérat, sans effusion de sang, et à la demande de la population de la ville. Malgré cet événement je me fais un devoir de maintenir dans son entier ma déclaration précédente et que j'ai répété ci-dessus.

(L.S.) FEROKH KHAN.

(Translation.)

Excellency, *November* 26, 1856.

I HAVE had the honour to state to you in writing, that I was ready officially to engage the Persian Government immediately to withdraw its troops from Herat and from its territory; and that, moreover, I was ready to make with your Excellency a satisfactory arrangement concerning the payment of the losses of the Heratees. Since then I have learnt by an official despatch that the troops of His Majesty the Shah had taken possession of Herat, without bloodshed, and at the request of the population of the town. Notwithstanding this event, I feel bound to adhere fully to my former declaration, which I have repeated above.

(L.S.) FEROKH KHAN.

Inclosure 4 in No. 158.

Lord Stratford de Redcliffe to Mr. Moore.

(Extract.) *Therapia, November* 27, 1856.

I HAVE to request that immediately on the receipt of this instruction you will again wait, as before, on Ferokh Khan.

I must beg to decline as useless the proposed honour of another interview, unless the Ambassador will consent to come here to-morrow, between 12 and 2 o'clock, prepared to sign the ultimatum of which he is already in possession.

The terms of that part of the ultimatum which were sent to the Sadr Azim early in summer are inclosed herewith, agreeably to the Ambassador's wish, in the words employed by Her Majesty's Secretary of State.

Inclosure 5 in No. 158.

Articles of Reparation required from Persia.

THE Sadr Azim to write a letter to Mr. Murray, expressing his regret at having uttered and given currency to the offensive imputations upon the honour of Her Majesty's Ministers, and requesting to withdraw his own letter of the 19th of November, and the two letters of the Minister for Foreign Affairs of the 26th of November, one of which contains a rescript from the Shah, repeating the imputation upon Mr. Murray. The Sadr Azim to declare, in the same letter, that no such further rescript from the Shah as that inclosed in copy was communicated, directly or indirectly, to any of the other foreign Missions at Tehran; and a copy of the Sadr Azim's letter, containing this apology and declaration, to be officially communicated by the Sadr Azim to each of the foreign Missions at Tehran. The original letter to be transmitted to Mr. Murray at Bagdad by the hand of some high Persian officer, and accompanied by an invitation to Mr. Murray, in the name of the Shah, to return with the Mission to Tehran, another person of suitable rank being appointed to conduct him as Mehmandar on his journey through Persia. Mr. Murray, on approaching the Persian capital, to be received by persons of high rank deputed to escort him into the town and to his residence; or, at all events, at noon on the following day, the Sadr Azim to go in state to the residence of the British Mission, and personally renew friendly relations, and then accompany him to the presence of the Shah.

Meerza Hashem to proceed to Shiraz as agent of the British Mission, his wife being at once returned to him.

When the British flag is again hoisted over the residence of the British Mission, the reconciliation which will have been effected between the two Governments to be made known to the inhabitants of Tehran by a salute of twenty-one guns, in honour of the British flag. The Sadr Azim immediately afterwards to pay a visit of ceremony to Her Majesty's Minister, who would return it next day.

Her Majesty's Government will consent that the whole of the correspondence between Her Majesty's Mission and the Persian Government in regard to the appointment of Meerza Hashem shall be mutually withdrawn and cancelled.

Inclosure 6 in No. 158.

Mr. Moore to Lord Stratford de Redcliffe.

(Extract.) *Pera, November* 28, 1856.

MR. CHURCHILL and myself called at an early hour this morning upon the Persian Ambassador.

As regards the paragraph of your Excellency's instruction in which you state that you beg to decline another interview unless Ferokh Khan is prepared to sign the ultimatum—that is to say, the six conditions—his Excellency desired us to inform you that he had not the power to do so, and, therefore, could not comply with the request. Such, he added, was my answer to Lord Stratford at our interview.

The terms of that part of the ultimatum which were sent to the Sadr Azim early last summer, he promised to accede to, but requested the honour of another meeting with your Excellency to examine and discuss more fully one or two of the Articles, which, he said, were susceptible of slight modifications.

Ferokh Khan did not make the request for another interview a *sine quâ non*, but thought it would be advantageous to both Governments; and he desired us to inform you that he would not refuse to give a satisfactory declaration in acceptance of that ultimatum, even were your Excellency to decline seeing him a second time.

Ferokh Khan requested the favour of an answer without delay.

Inclosure 7 in No. 158.

Lord Stratford de Redcliffe to Mr. Moore.

(Extract.) *Therapia, November* 28, 1856.

I HAVE nothing to discuss with Ferokh Khan. He has to send me a written Declaration pledging his Government to the execution of all that concerns the return of Mr. Murray and his Mission to Tehran. The terms of that engagement were placed in his hands by you two days ago. The new Articles, five in number, he professes his readiness to send by express to his Government, and to wait here for instructions, he being unable, without them, to pledge his Court to the acceptance of those articles. Let him act on this understanding at once. If the written Declaration I now expect from him, be complete and satisfactory, I will receive him again with pleasure, and if I receive the Declaration to-day or early to-morrow morning, I will receive him, if he likes it, between 1 and 2 o'clock to-morrow afternoon.

Inclosure 8 in No. 158.

Mr. Moore to Lord Stratford de Redcliffe.

My Lord, *Pera, November* 29, 1856.

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your Excellency's instruction of the 28th instant.

Ferokh Khan desired Mr. Churchill and myself to inform you that he would send this afternoon a written Declaration pledging his Government to the execution of that part of the ultimatum concerning the return of Mr. Murray and his Mission to Tehran.

His Excellency also promised to send a special messenger to Tehran by the earliest opportunity with the five new Articles, and wait here for his Government's instructions respecting them.

Ferokh Khan further desired me to inform your Excellency that he would do him self the honour of calling upon you to-morrow between the hours of 1 and 2 in the afternoon.

I have the honour to inclose herewith the Persian Ambassador's declaration, accompanied by a translation made by Mr. Churchill.

I have, &c.
(Signed) LIONEL MOORE.

Inclosure 9 in No. 158.

Ferokh Khan to Lord Stratford de Redcliffe.

(Translation.)

Excellency, 30 *Rebiul-evvel*, 1273. (*November* 29, 1856.)

I HAVE accepted the terms of an ultimatum sent by your Excellency to the Persian Ministers, through the medium of Meerza Ahmed Khan, previous to my arrival at Constantinople; but as the firing of guns at the capital of Persia has always been the special right and privilege of royalty, so much so that this ceremony has never been performed even for the heir to the Crown, a decision on this point is consequently submitted to the liberality of the English Government. A royal salute of twenty-one guns might be fired at any other place on the Persian frontier that the British Mission might designate.

As the question of Herat has been settled to the satisfaction of the British Government, the question relating to Meerza Hashem must also be settled in conformity with the wishes of His Majesty the Shah, as stated in the conditions made and communicated by the Persian Government; and it is also self-evident that His Majesty the Shah will receive Mr. Murray in the manner that the Sovereigns of Europe receive Ambassadors of foreign Courts.

(L.S.) FEROKH KHAN.

Inclosure 10 in No. 158.

Lord Stratford de Redcliffe to Mr. Moore.

(Extract.) *Therapia, November* 29, 1856.

I HAVE received your report dated to-day, with the Persian Ambassador's additional Declaration. The Declaration is not sufficient, and I return it herewith. In giving it back without loss of time to his Excellency, you will tell him that I require a simple acceptance in writing of the terms which you delivered to him from me, two or three days ago, pledging his Government to their execution. I must decline receiving him again until such a Declaration is delivered to me in place of the one now returned.

Inclosure 11 in No. 158.

Mr. Moore to Lord Stratford de Redcliffe.

My Lord, *Pera, November* 30, 1856.

HAVING returned, in compliance with your Excellency's instruction of the 29th instant, to Ferokh Khan, the unsatisfactory Declaration which I forwarded yesterday, I have now the honour to transmit, herewith, another Declaration from him, which is also accompanied by a translation made by Mr. Churchill.

Your Excellency will no doubt perceive that Ferokh Khan accepts the ultimatum sent last summer through the Persian Chargé d'Affaires to Tehran, and not the one of which I gave him a copy from you, the terms of which he describes as differing from those in the original version.

I have, &c.
(Signed) L. MOORE.

Inclosure 12 in No. 158.

Ferokh Khan to Lord Stratford de Redcliffe.

(Translation.)

Excellency, 30 *Rebiul-evvel,* 1273. (29 *November,* 1856.)

I ACCEPT the terms of the ultimatum that your Excellency, previous to my arrival at Constantinople, sent to the Ministers of the Persian Government through the medium of Hadji Meerza Ahmed Khan; but, as the firing of guns at the Persian capital has always been the special right and privilege of royalty, so much so that this ceremony is not even performed for the heir to the Crown, the arrangement of this point is submitted to the liberality of the English Government. A royal salute of twenty-one guns might be fired at any other place on the Persian frontier that the British Mission should designate.

(L.S.) FEROKH KHAN.

Inclosure 13 in No. 158.

Lord Stratford de Redcliffe to Mr. Moore.

Sir, *Therapia, November* 30, 1856.

AS I would not willingly hurt the feelings of the Persian Ambassador, I do not return his last Declaration, but am content to receive a postscript to it signed equally by him to this effect: Informed by me that, while I accept his last Declaration as pledging his Government to the execution of an ultimatum respecting the return of Her Majesty's Mission to Tehran, I require, to prevent any uncertainty hereafter, that the precise terms sent in to him on the 27th instant be distinctly accepted as the real ultimatum to be carried into effect, he accepts the same without reserve, and only trusts to the liberal consideration of the British Government with respect to the salute of twenty-one guns at Tehran, and the return of Meerza Hashem as British Agent at Shiraz.

Yours, &c.

(Signed) STRATFORD DE REDCLIFFE.

P.S.—You may inform the Ambassador that I will answer for our Government not pressing the return of Meerza Hashem to Shiraz as British Agent, if Shah expresses a decided wish to that effect. S. DE R.

Inclosure 14 in No. 158.

Lord Stratford de Redcliffe to Mr. Moore.

Sir, *Therapia, November* 30, 1856.

I HAVE received your letter of this day's date, inclosing Ferokh Khan's amended Declaration, together with Mr. Churchill's translation of it.

You will lose no time in applying to see the Ambassador again, and you will inform him that I must adhere to my previous demand, namely, that he declare in writing his official and unreserved acceptance of the terms which I last communicated to him. They do not differ essentially from those communicated by me early last summer to the Persian Chargé d'Affaires for transmission to his Court. No room must, however, be left for any kind of confusion or uncertainty. The paper which contains the demands of my Government, respecting the return of Her Majesty's Mission to Tehran, is that which I have specified above, and for which I expect the Ambassador's signature.

The salute of twenty-one guns and the return of Meerza Hashem to Shiraz may be safely left to the liberal consideration of the British Government.

I have, &c.

(Signed) STRATFORD DE REDCLIFFE.

No. 159.

Lord Stratford de Redcliffe to the Earl of Clarendon.—(Received December 14.)

(Extract.) *Therapia, December* 12, 1856.

ALL my endeavours to prevail on Ferokh Khan to redeem his pledges have failed. Before sending to Tehran by express, and consenting to stay for the reply, he requires a promise that no expedition shall meanwhile land in Persia, and that nothing shall be added to the present ultimatum, not even a demand of indemnity. I undertook, if he would do without more hesitation whatever he had offered or accepted, to submit the conditions of his stay to your Lordship by telegraph. He now insists on my writing home first, and I send him word that I have nothing to add. The terms of the ultimatum continue to tie me down. The Sadr Azim's dismissal is a great obstacle.

No. 160.

Sir Justin Sheil to Mr. Hammond.—(Received December 15.)

(Extract.) 2, *Chester Square, December* 13, 1856.

MR. STEVENS, in his despatch dated October 25 last, states that the agreement made in 1853, relative to Herat, by the Persian Government is "bilateral." This is an error. The arrangement is wholly one-sided; the document was signed or sealed by the Sadr Azim alone, and not by me.

When I accepted that agreement, the chief value that I attached to it was, that while it bound the Persian Government to certain stipulations, it left Her Majesty's Government free from all conditions whatever. The pretension, therefore, of the Persian Ministers, that if the agreement is binding on Persia, it must be equally so on Great Britain, seems to me, as the engagements are exclusively on the Persian side, unsustainable.

I preserve no recollection of having written, nor do I find any trace of having written, letters of the kind alluded to by Mr. Stevens on the 28th and 31st of January, 1853; but I find in my despatch of the 17th of February, 1853, two inclosures (Nos. 4 and 8), dated on the 9th and 13th of February, to the Minister of Foreign Affairs and the Sedr Azim respectively, which I have no doubt are the communications referred to.

After the arrangement regarding Herat was concluded, it was necessary I should send a person to that city to proclaim the nature of the engagements entered into by the Persian Government. I selected for this purpose a native of Affghanistan, who was under the protection of the Mission, and who was a pensioner of the Indian Government. The Persian Government insisted that I should send one of its own subjects on this mission, and made a strong remonstrance to this effect. This it was that led to my declaration that I would send whom I pleased, and when I pleased, to Herat.

Far from this interlude rendering the agreement null and void on the part of Persia, the arrangement, as far as regards the publication of it in Herat, was immediately carried out.

You will remark that the dates of my inclosures on the 9th and 13th of February, correspond with the dates mentioned by Mr. Stevens, of the 28th and 31st of January, old style. If more proof be required to identify my letters of the 9th and 13th of February, with those alluded to by Mr. Stevens of January, I would draw attention to the circumstance that the letter of the 9th of February (Russian 28th of January) was addressed to the Minister of Foreign Affairs, while that of the 13th of February (Russian 31st of January) was written to the Sadr Azim, precisely as stated by Mr. Stevens' informant. Moreover, the language and expressions in my letters of February are identic with those brought to the knowledge of Her Majesty's Consul. All this, coupled with the fact of there being no letters of the 28th and 31st of January (new style) discoverable, seems to me to set the matter at rest.

At the risk of being prolix, I wish to observe that it is impossible that any declarations of mine of the nature cited could invalidate the agreement of the Persian Ministers. Throughout the negotiation I studiously maintained the absolute right of Her Majesty's Government to preserve relations with Herat, and to treat that Principality as an independent Government. My object in addressing the Persian Ministers in the manner described, was to reiterate the determination of Her Majesty's Government to uphold those principles.

Inclosure 1 in No. 160.

Lieutenant-Colonel Sheil to Meerza Syed Khan.

February 9, 1853.

AS your Excellency's second private note of to-day is written in a tone wholly different from the communication of this morning, I beg to answer that I ascribe to myself the most entire freedom in communicating with Herat; that I will send there whom I please, when I please, and as often as I please, without reference to the Persian Ministers, or communication or consultation with them, exactly as I would to any other independent Government.

It is absolutely contrary to the fact to assert that it was agreed that an Agent of the Mission at Meshed should be sent to Herat. There was no specification of persons. The Agent of this Mission has his own duties in Meshed, which would render it impossible for him to leave that city, independent of other recent circumstances connected with him, of which your Excellency is aware. The Prime Minister seems to forget that he sent me a message by Meerza Hossein Koolie, requesting me to dispatch the person who was to proceed from Meshed. Your Excellency was, I think, present.

Inclosure 2 in No. 160.

Lieutenant-Colonel Sheil to the Sadr Azim.

February 13, 1853.

I HAVE received your Excellency's letter of the 12th February. I will enter into no discussion with this Government as to the selection of the person whom I shall send to Herat; for, as I said to the Minister for Foreign Affairs, I exercise an absolute discretion on the subject. The person I shall employ is Sultan Khan, whom I have already dispatched to Meshed. As for sending the English Agent at Meshed, as your Excellency suggests, it is wholly out of the question; he has his own avocations. Moreover, I cannot admit the interference of the Persian Ministers in the matter; and, besides this, the scandalous treatment of this person by the Prince Governor of Khorassan, for which I have still to obtain ample satisfaction from this Government, incapacitates him for such a duty.

As the Persian Government has taken upon itself the responsibility of the threat conveyed by the Minister for Foreign Affairs, that the arrangement and other documents will not be transmitted to Herat, I claim from the Persian Ministers a distinct announcement whether it is their purpose to adhere to their engagement, and dispatch those documents to Herat in company with my messenger, or whether I am to report to my Government that the Persian Ministers refuse to do so.

I have, &c.
(Signed) JUSTIN SHEIL.

No. 161.

The Earl of Clarendon to Lord Stratford de Redcliffe.

(Extract.) *Foreign Office, December* 16, 1856.

NOTHING will be added to the present ultimatum, provided that its conditions are complied with, but delay will give rise to more stringent demands. The Ambassador's request that our expedition to Persia may be delayed, cannot be listened to.

We must insist upon the dismissal of the Sadr Azim.

No. 162.

Sir G. Clerk to Mr. Hammond.—(Received December 17.)

India Board, December 17, 1856.

SIR GEORGE CLERK presents his compliments to Mr. Hammond, and transmits, for the information of the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, a copy of three Proclamations issued by the Governor-General of India in Council, on the 1st of November, 1856, in consequence of the intention to commence hostile operations against Persia.

Inclosure in No. 162.

Proclamations.

Political Department,
Bombay Castle, November 10, 1856.

THE Right Honourable the Governor in Council is pleased to republish, for general information, the three following proclamations, issued by the Right Honourable the Governor-General of India in Council, under date the 1st instant.

By order of the Right Honourable the Governor in Council,
(Signed) H. L. ANDERSON,
Secretary to Government.

Proclamation.

Foreign Departmeet,
Fort William, November 1, 1856.

THE Right Honourable the Governor-General of India in Council, having, under instructions from Her Majesty's Government, directed the assemblage of a British force at Bombay, for service in the Persian Gulf, deems it proper to make known the reasons which have rendered this measure necessary.

In the month of January 1853, certain Articles of Agreement were concluded between Lieutenant-Colonel Sheil, Her Majesty's Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary at the Court of the Shah of Persia, and his Highness the Sadr Azim, or Prime Minister of the Persian Government.

By those Articles the Persian Government engaged not to send troops to Herat, on any account, unless foreign troops—that is, troops from the direction of Cabul or Candahar, or other foreign country—should invade Herat. In the event of troops being sent, the Persian Government engaged that the said troops should not enter the city of Herat, and that, on the return of the foreign troops towards their own territory, the Persian troops should be immediately withdrawn from the neighbourhood of Herat to Persian soil.

The Persian Government also engaged to abstain from all interference whatsoever in the internal affairs of Herat, whether "in taking possession, or occupying, or assuming the sovereignty, or governing, except in so far as interference existed between the two parties during the lifetime of the late Yar Mahomed."

And, lastly, the Persian Government engaged to relinquish all pretension to and demand for the coinage, or the reading of the "khootbeh," or any other acknowledgment of allegiance or subjection, on the part of the people of Herat, to the Government of Persia.

It was at the same time stipulated, that so long as there should be no interference of any sort whatever on the part of the British Government in the affairs of Herat, the engagements contracted by the Persian Government, as aforesaid, should remain in full force and effect. On the other hand, it was agreed, in the name of the British Government, that "if any foreign Power, such as the Affghans or others," should wish to interfere with or to take possession of Herat, the British Government, on the requisition of the Persian Ministers, would not object to restrain such foreign Power by friendly advice, "so that Herat might remain in its own state of independence."

While the British Government has faithfully and constantly adhered to the obligations which it accepted under the Agreement of January 1853, the Government of Persia has manifested a deliberate and persevering disregard of the reciprocal engagements by which it at the same time became bound, and is now endeavouring to subvert by force the independence of Herat, which was the declared object of the Agreement in question.

So far back as December 1855, the Persian Government, by an article in the Tehran "Official Gazette," announced its intention of dispatching a force to Herat, alleging that the Ameer Dost Mahomed Khan, the Ruler of Affghanistan, had been instigated by his "neighbours" to possess himself of Candahar; that having, with their assistance, succeeded in that enterprise, he meditated an advance upon Herat; and that an armed demonstration in the direction of Herat was required for the preservation of tranquillity in Khorassan.

This assertion that the Ruler of Affghanistan was instigated by his "neighbours" to occupy Candahar, or that he was assisted by them in possessing himself of that city, or that he received advice or encouragement from them to advance upon Herat, was—if by those "neighbours" the British Government is indicated—wholly untrue. No such instigation, or assistance, or encouragement (direct or indirect), had been given by the British Government; nor, so far as the British Government is informed, had there been, when the assertion was made, any act on the part of the Ameer Dost Mahomed Khan evincing a design to advance upon Herat.

Nevertheless, the Persian Government has executed its intention. Not only have Persian troops invaded the territory of Herat, although the contingency which alone could justify such an act has not come to pass, but they have laid siege to the city, and have interfered in its internal affairs; while the Government of Tehran has not only assumed the right to nominate the Ruler of Herat, but, in addressing the present chief of the city, has declared Herat to be Persian soil.

The siege of Herat has now been carried on by the Persian army for many months. Before its commencement, and during its progress, the unfriendly sentiments of Persia towards the British Government have been scarcely veiled; and recently, the movements of troops, in different parts of Persia, have indicated a determination to persist in an aggression which is as unprovoked as it is contrary to good faith.

The conduct of the Persian Government has been pronounced by Her Majesty's Government to constitute an act of open hostility against Great Britain. Reparation has been sought, but without success. The withdrawal of the Persian troops from the neighbourhood of Herat to Persian soil has been demanded, as a preliminary to the adjustment of differences to which the acts of Persia alone have given rise; but the demand has been evaded, and, according to the most recent accounts, a Persian army still invests Herat.

Friendly remonstrance having failed, and a reasonable requisition having been rejected or put aside, it becomes incumbent on the British Government to take measures by which the Persian Government shall be convinced that solemn engagements contracted with Great Britain may not be violated with impunity, and by which effectual guarantees against continuous breach of faith shall be secured.

To this end a force has been directed to assemble at Bombay, and will embark as soon as the necessary arrangements shall have been completed. The further operations of the force, after it shall have reached the Persian Gulf,

will be guided by such instructions as the progress of events, and the policy of the British Government, may demand.

By order of the Right Honourable the Governor-General in Council.

(Signed) G. F. EDMONSTONE,
Secretary to the Government of India.

Proclamation.

Foreign Department,
Fort William, November 1, 1856.

THE Right Honourable the Governor-General of India in Council having, under instructions from Her Majesty's Government, directed that hostile operations against Persia shall forthwith be undertaken, is pleased to order, and it is hereby ordered, that Persian merchant vessels which, at the time of the publication of this order, shall be in any ports or places in Her Majesty's Indian territories under the government of the East India Company, shall be allowed thirty days, from the date of the publication of this order, for loading their cargoes and departing from such ports or places; and that such Persian merchant vessels, if met at sea by any of the ships of the Indian Navy, shall be permitted to continue their voyage if, on examination of their papers, it shall appear that their cargoes were taken on board before the expiration of the above term. Provided that nothing herein contained shall extend, or be taken to extend, to Persian vessels having on board any officer in the military service of the Persian Government, or any article prohibited or contraband of war, or any despatch or to the Persian Government.

And it is hereby further ordered by the Right Honourable the Governor-General in Council, that any Persian merchant vessel which, prior to this 1st day of November, 1856, shall have sailed from any foreign port, bound for any port or place in any of Her Majesty's Indian territories, shall be permitted to enter such port or place, and to discharge her cargo, and afterwards forthwith to depart without molestation; and that any such vessel met at sea by any of the ships of the Indian Navy, shall be permitted to pursue her voyage.

The Right Honourable the Governors in Council of Madras and Bombay, the Honourable the Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal, the Governor of the Straits Settlements, the Commissioners of Pegu and of the Tenasserim and Martaban Provinces, and all Officers and Authorities whom it may concern, in Her Majesty's Indian territories under the government of the East India Company, are required to give the necessary directions herein as to them may respectively appertain.

By order of the Right Honourable the Governor-General of India in Council.

(Signed) G. F. EDMONSTONE,
Secretary to the Government of India.

Proclamation.

Foreign Department,
Fort William, November 1, 1856.

THE Right Honourable the Governor-General of India in Council being desirous that the hostile operations now about to be undertaken against Persia should be attended with as little injury as possible to individual interests, is pleased to notify that all subjects of the Shah of Persia residing within Her Majesty's Indian territories, under the government of the East India Company, and not being Consuls or Consular Agents in the service of the Persian Government, may continue to reside therein without molestation in respect to their persons, their property, or their lawful avocations, and that they will enjoy protection so long as they shall abstain from all acts hostile to the British Government, and shall observe due obedience to the laws under which they live, and to all resolutions or orders of the Governor-General of India in Council.

By order of the Right Honourable the Governor-General of India in Council.

(Signed) G. F. EDMONSTONE,
Secretary to the Government of India.

No. 163.

The Earl of Clarendon to Lord Stratford de Redcliffe.

My Lord, *Foreign Office, December* 18, 1856.

I HAVE to acquaint your Excellency that Her Majesty's Government entirely approve your proceedings with the Persian Ambassador respecting our differences with Persia, as reported in your despatch of the 30th of November, and its inclosures.

I am, &c.
(Signed) CLARENDON.

No. 164.

Lord Stratford de Redcliffe to the Earl of Clarendon.—(*Received December* 18.)

(Extract.) *Therapia, December* 7, 1856.

I FORWARD herewith, for the information of Her Majesty's Government, such further communications as have taken place, since I had last the honour of addressing your Lordship, between Ferokh Khan and myself.

Inclosure 1 in No. 164.

Mr. Moore to Lord Stratford de Redcliffe.

My Lord, *Pera, December* 1, 1856.

THE Persian Ambassador, to whom Mr. Churchill and I communicated your Excellency's last instruction of the 30th ultimo, received the message with much apparent concern. However, he said that it required consideration, and that he could not return an answer immediately.

When I expressed a wish to know whether his answer would be of a satisfactory nature, he gave me to understand that he had not made up his mind regarding it.

I received to-day from Malcum Khan a letter addressed to me, which I have the honour to inclose herewith, returning the copy of the ultimatum given by your Excellency to the Persian Ambassador, on the ground that it differed from the original version. During my interview to-day with the Persian Ambassador, I prevailed upon his Excellency to take it back, but not without considerable hesitation on his part.

I have, &c.
(Signed) LIONEL MOORE.

Inclosure 2 in No. 164.

Mr. Moore to Lord Stratford de Redcliffe.

My Lord, *Pera, December* 4, 1856.

I HAVE the honour to forward herewith Ferokh Khan's answer to your Excellency's last message, accompanied by a translation made by Mr. Churchill.

I have, &c.
(Signed) LIONEL MOORE.

Inclosure 3 in No. 164.

Ferokh Khan to Lord Stratford de Redcliffe.

(Translation.) 5 *Rebiul-Sani*, 1273. (*December* 4, 1856.)

THE Persian Ministers being disposed to maintain friendly relations with the English Government, and the Ministers of Great Britain having made the withdrawal of the Persian troops from Herat the condition of their friendship, I pledged myself to the evacuation of that town. Added to this, when your Excellency proposed to me the acceptance of the ultimatum which had been sent to Tehran through the medium of the Persian Chargé d'Affaires, and which had been returned by the Persian Ministers, in compliance with your wishes I accepted that ultimatum by a written Declaration, bearing the date of the 30th Rebi-ul-evel.

Thus far I have done everything in my power to do away with the pending difficulties, and, indeed, I have exceeded my instructions. Now, however, that my powers are exhausted, I beg to state to your Excellency that, if the engagements entered into relative to Herat, and the satisfaction tendered to the British Mission, are acceptable to the British Government, I am ready to fulfil those engagements; but if the British Government does not consider my engagements as sufficient for the re-establishment of friendly relations, not being furnished with the powers to make any others, my further stay at Constantinople will be of no avail; and as I am charged with a special mission, I beg your Excellency will be good enough to bring the nature of my engagements to the knowledge of the British Government, so that, if they be not accepted, I may be enabled to proceed with my business in the space of a week. But I here officially declare to your Excellency that, if the English Government do not consider my engagements sufficient, and take steps at variance with the existing Treaty of Friendship between the two Governments, or occasion any damage or injury on the Persian frontiers, then all the engagements entered into by me regarding Herat, and other matters, shall be considered void and null. The only point to which I shall still abide, will be that of communicating your Excellency's propositions to the Persian Government.

(L.S.) FEROKH KHAN.

Inclosure 4 in No. 164.

Lord Stratford de Redcliffe to Mr. Moore.

(Extract.) *Therapia, December* 4, 1856.

I RETURN you herewith the note which you have sent me to-day from the Persian Ambassador.

It is so different from what I was led to expect, and so unsuited to our previous communications, that I must decline the honour of accepting it. I propose, however, to meet his Excellency's views in a different form.

You will place in his hands the accompanying paper, dated to-day, and bearing my signature. It is an exact transcript of the terms which were sent by me in June, through the Persian Chargé d'Affaires, to the Court of Tehran, with the omission of that part of it which relates to Herat. You will also submit to him the Declaration inclosed herewith, which I expect to receive from him, in return, when translated literally into Persian, and signed, as well as dated, by him. He is, of course, not to retain my paper without sending me his.

I send you, moreover, herewith, a Memorandum, stating in what position I understand Ferokh Khan and myself to be placed towards each other, with reference to the matters at issue, and to antecedent circumstances. You are at liberty to use its contents, if necessary, in communicating with his Excellency. His present inability to accept the whole of my terms being understood, I acquiesce in his proposal of referring the points which he has reserved to his Government, and his waiting here the return of the messenger.

Inclosure 5 in No. 164.

Draft of Declaration to be signed by Ferokh Khan.

I ACCEPT the paper which your Excellency has sent me under date of the 4th of December, 1856, as containing, with the exception of such parts of it as concerned Herat, the terms which I accepted by my Declaration of the 30th of Rebi-ul-evvel, the parts omitted being supplied by my previous Declaration thereon, dated the 23rd of the same month.

Inclosure 6 in No. 164.

Memorandum on Persian Affairs.

Therapia, December 4, 1856.

THE ultimatum sent to Tehran through the Persian Chargé d'Affaires in the month of June holds no longer. The British Government required an immediate and categorical answer. No such answer was given. A reference, never accepted by the British Government, was made to Ferokh Khan. Before the arrival of that Ambassador at Constantinople, greatly retarded as it was, other incidents affecting the relations of the two Governments took place, and the British authorities found it necessary to incur the expense of preparing an expedition for the enforcement of their claims.

Communications having in view satisfaction to the British Government, and final reconciliation on solid grounds, have, nevertheless, taken place between Ferokh Khan and the British Ambassador at Constantinople.

The latter, as soon as he was satisfied that Ferokh Khan had powers and instructions for the occasion, particularly in what related to Herat, gave in a statement of the conditions demanded by his Government under the new state of things.

The Persian Ambassador pledged his Government to the evacuation of Herat, town and territory; to the payment of an indemnity to their inhabitants; to the reception of Mr. Murray and his Mission, on their return to Persia, with the apologies and honourable formalities required; and, with respect to five points of the British conditions, which had not been foreseen by his instructions, he undertook to refer to his Government by an express messenger, and to await his return with the answer, expected in forty days.

Lord Stratford, on his side, brought under the notice of his Government the difficulties which Ferokh Khan, while prepared to recommend all the points in question to the favourable consideration of his Government at Tehran, anticipated as not unlikely to arise; and he drew attention in particular to the matter of the salute, to that of Meerza Hashem, and to the required dismissal of the present Sadr Azim. He regretted that Ferokh Khan was unprepared to take upon himself the responsibility of pledging his Government to the execution of all the conditions, the frank acceptance of which might have enabled him to suspend any hostile operations of the expedition against Persia; but he, nevertheless, acquiesced in the partial agreement and reference to Tehran already specified, and he endeavoured to prevent any chances of confusion or further discussion respecting the circumstances intended to accompany the return of Mr. Murray and his Mission to Tehran, and their arrival there, by specifying, in a separate memorandum, the particulars of what was required in that respect.

Ferokh Khan appears to be reluctant to give a declaration accepting, with reserve of any kind, the terms so specified, under an impression that new demands are comprised in it.

Lord Stratford denies the intention of any such change, whatever the appearance may be, and is willing to clear the matter up by a frank explanation, provided the Persian Ambassador declares his readiness to give a written acceptance of the terms when cleared of any uncertainty which occasions his present erroneous impressions.

Inclosure 7 in No. 164.

Messrs. Moore and Churchill to Lord Stratford de Redcliffe.

(Extract.) *Pera, December* 6, 1856.

IN compliance with your Excellency's instructions of the 4th instant, we waited upon Ferokh Khan, and read to him, in translation, your communication.

The Persian Ambassador began by refusing to withdraw his last letter, stating that he had expressed therein what he was prepared to accept, and expected an answer in return from your Excellency, which would enable him to decide as to his further conduct.

With reference to the Declaration inclosed in your instruction, also translated literally into Persian, for Ferokh Khan's information, he remarked that he could have no objection to accept once more what he had already acceded to previously, but he should not do so unless it were left with him until to-morrow, a request which we could not comply with, it being at variance with your Excellency's instructions.

Having communicated to Ferokh Khan the substance of the Memorandum, also inclosed in your Excellency's despatch under present acknowledgment, we begged him to favour us with a categorical answer respecting the proposal of referring the five points to his Government, and wait here the return of the messenger.

After a pause of a few minutes, his Excellency replied, in a peremptory tone, totally differing from that of any of his former verbal communications with us, that he had already been here fifty days to no purpose; that he had another important mission to fulfil; and that he did not see the advantage likely to accrue from his pledging himself to remain here another forty days, unless your Excellency were prepared to assure him that the British expedition for Persia should not land on the Shah's territory before the receipt of an answer from Tehran, or that Her Majesty's Government would not demand anything further than what is contained in the conditions referred to the Persian Ministers, such as the payment of expenses incurred in making this hostile demonstration.

Before taking our departure, we reiterated our request to be furnished with the Declaration required by your Excellency, and strongly recommended him to carry out his own former proposal of sending an express messenger to his Court, and wait here for the answer; but to these remarks he lent a deaf ear, and dismissed us by stating that he would reply as soon as your Lordship would answer the two questions respecting the landing of British troops on the Persian territory, and the reserve of Her Majesty's Government to make further demands.

No. 165.

The Earl of Clarendon to Lord Stratford de Redcliffe.

My Lord, *Foreign Office, December* 19, 1856.

I HAVE to inform your Excellency that Her Majesty's Government approve your further proceedings in your negotiations with Ferokh Khan, respecting our differences with Persia, as reported in your despatch of the 7th of December.

I am, &c.

(Signed) CLARENDON.

No. 166.

Mr. Murray to the Earl of Clarendon.—(*Received December* 23.)

My Lord, *Bagdad, November* 21, 1856.

IN reply to your Lordship's despatch of the 10th of October, transmitting a letter to the address of the Persian Minister for Foreign Affairs, I have the honour to state that, agreeably to your Lordship's instruction, I lost no time in causing an accurate translation to be made, and the following morning I delivered the packet to the Persian Consul here, requesting him to transmit it to Tehran with all despatch, and taking from him at the same time a receipt, of which I have the honour to inclose a translation.

As Mr. Stevens had already quitted Tehran, and I felt no confidence that a courier of the Mission could undertake the journey to that city with safety or without interruption, I considered that it was safer to adopt this method of forwarding your Lordship's despatch to the Persian Government.

I have, &c.

(Signed) CH. A. MURRAY.

Inclosure in No. 166.

Receipt given by the Persian Consul in Bagdad for the Earl of Clarendon's Letter of October 10, 1856, *to the address of the Persian Minister for Foreign Affairs.*

(Translation.)

A PACKET sent to his Excellency the British Minister Plenipotentiary at Bagdad by his Excellency the Minister for Foreign Affairs of the British Government, was, on the 18th day of Rebiul-evvel (18th of November), five and a-half hours after sunrise, brought to and delivered over at the Persian Consulate by Meerza Agha, the first Meerza of the British Mission, to be sent to Tehran to Meerza Syed Khan, the Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Persian Government. This has been written as a receipt for the above packet.

(L.S.) MEERZA IBRAHIM KHAN.

Translated by

(Signed) RONALD F. THOMSON.

No. 167.

Consul Stevens to the Earl of Clarendon.—(*Received December* 25.)

My Lord, *Tehran, October* 25, 1856.

I, THIS afternoon, had the honour to receive your Lordship's despatch dated September 22, acquainting me with the approaching despatch to the Persian Gulf of a naval and military force from India, and instructing me to set out for Bagdad with all possible dispatch, taking with me the public archives, and breaking up altogether Her Majesty's Consulate on my departure.

I shall be careful to attend to the instructions on the several points mentioned in your Lordship's despatch, and shall report later the means which I may have adopted for the preservation of the Mission premises, and the property they contain.

The only difficulty I may have in executing one portion of the instructions is that regarding the transfer to the Freneh Mission of such British subjects and protégés as may remain in Tehran after my departure, there being just now not a single member of the French Mission in Tehran. The Chargé d'Affaires may arrive before I start; in case he should not do so, I shall request the Turkish Chargé d'Affaires to assume the charge until the Count de Gobineau's arrival.

I trust your Lordship will look indulgently on a decision which an unforeseen

and painful circumstance has compelled me to come to, viz., to go to Trebizond *viâ* Georgia, before joining the Mission at Bagdad.

I sent my family away six weeks ago for the Black Sea, not doubting I should myself soon be recalled, and wishing to be free to travel to Bagdad by post; but, my Lord, I learn to-day the distressing intelligence of Mrs. Stevens having been attacked by cholera on the 20th instant, at a village on the road to the Russian frontier, and from what Mr. Abbott writes to me, I fear she has fallen a victim to the scourge. In that case, I am bound to go to the assistance of my children, the eldest only five years old, and the youngest an infant at the breast; and after placing them in charge of my relatives at Trebizond, I should proceed, without loss of time, to Bagdad, *viâ* Samsoon.

The archives, Mission and Consular, form several horse-loads: these, with some effects belonging to Mr. Murray, I shall send by the direct road to Bagdad, in charge of my Persian scribe, and escorted by such of the Mission Gholaums as may be in Tehran when I leave.

I have, &c.
(Signed) RICH. W. STEVENS.

No. 168.

Consul Stevens to the Earl of Clarendon.—(Received December 25.)

My Lord, *Trebizond, December* 3, 1856.

I HAVE the honour to inform your Lordship that I reached Trebizond yesterday. Soon after the date of my despatch to your Lordship, in which I mentioned the painful circumstance which compelled me to visit Trebizond before going to Bagdad, I received intelligence of my wife's death. I prepared in consequence to leave Tehran as soon as possible, in the hope of overtaking my children in Georgia. The journey, however, proved much longer than I anticipated. The day after I quitted Tehran, it commenced blowing very hard, with occasional snow, hail, and constant heavy rain; and this weather, which accompanied me throughout the whole of my travels, as far almost as Trebizond, delayed me so much on the road, besides keeping me five days in Redout-Kaleh, three at Shef-Katil, and one at Batoum, that my family got to Trebizond long before me in Her Majesty's steamer "Vulture," kindly sent to their assistance and that of Mr. Abbott by Lord Stratford de Redcliffe.

The preparations for my journey were completed by the 30th October; my early departure had been necessarily known to the public for some days before; and it was also generally known that I had determined on following my children through Georgia, but I did not think it necessary to acquaint everybody either with the precise hour or with the route I intended taking; and I selected Ghilan, in consequence of the prevalence of cholera in the north of Persia. On the morning of the 30th, I formally announced my approaching departure to the Minister for Foreign Affairs in a letter, of which the inclosed is a copy. The next evening I went to the Russian camp to obtain passports for myself and servants; and thence started on my journey without re-entering the town.

I have, &c.
(Signed) RICH. W. STEVENS.

Inclosure in No. 168.

Consul Stevens to the Persian Minister for Foreign Affairs.

Sir, *Tehran, October* 30, 1856.

HER Majesty's Government having instructed me to leave Tehran, in consequence of the course which the Persian Government persists in following in regard to Herat, and other subjects under discussion between Great Britain and Persia, I have the honour to inform your Excellency that I am making preparations for commencing my journey immediately; and also that the British and British-protected subjects in Persia are temporarily placed under the protection

of the French Mission; and, until the arrival in Tehran of the Chargé d'Affaires of France, the Ottoman Chargé d'Affaires will watch over their interests.

I trust I have only to remind the Persian Government that there are thousands of its subjects peaceably residing in British India, chiefly connected with the merchants of Fars, Ispahan, and Tehran, to secure equally good treatment for the subjects and dependents of the British Government who may remain in Persia.

I have, &c.
(Signé) RICH. W. STEVENS.

No. 169.

Lord Stratford de Redcliffe to the Earl of Clarendon.—(*Received December* 25.)

(Extract.) *Therapia, December* 15, 1856.

MY present duty is almost entirely confined to such additional correspondence as circumstances have occasioned since the departure of the last messenger.

The communication which I was led by Mr. Moore's report to expect from Ferokh Khan in the course of yesterday, has not reached me.

Inclosure 1 in No. 169.

Mr. Moore to Lord Stratford de Redcliffe.

(Extract.) *Pera, December* 8, 1856.

FEROKH KHAN requested me to inform you that he declines withdrawing his last written communication to your Excellency, and observed that he would either take back the whole of his written communications and declarations to you, or none at all. He therefore returned to me his last letter which I had delivered into his hands.

Inclosure 2 in No. 169.

Lord Stratford de Redcliffe to Mr. Churchill.

(Extract.) *Therapia, December* 8, 1856.

I LEARN from Mr. Moore's report of this day's date, that in consequence of the Ambassador's persistence in forcing his note upon me, he received it a second time.

Such being the case, I beg you will wait on Ferokh Khan at an early hour to-morrow, and, taking with you his note to me, inform him that I again refuse to accept it, and that I hold it altogether as a thing having no value or diplomatic existence in my eyes. You will add, that whatever he may do, or omit to do, I hold him responsible for his declarations and proffered engagement, and that if I receive no satisfactory communication from him in the course of the day after to-morrow, I shall draw my conclusion, and report accordingly to Her Majesty's Government.

His note you will leave at his side, or at all events in his house, even if he should decline to receive you.

Inclosure 3 in No. 169.

Mr. Churchill to Lord Stratford de Redcliffe.

My Lord, *Pera, December* 9, 1856.

ON the receipt of your Excellency's despatch of the 8th instant, I immediately proceeded to the Persian Embassy, and taking with me Ferokh Khan's note to your Excellency, I informed the Persian Ambassador, as soon as I was

admitted into his presence, that you again refused to accept his note, and that you held it altogether as a thing having no value or diplomatic existence.

After having added, in explicit terms, in the Persian language, that whatever he might do, or omit to do, your Excellency held him responsible for his declaration and profferred engagement, and that if your Excellency did not receive a satisfactory communication from him by to-morrow, you would draw your conclusion, and report accordingly to Her Majesty's Government, I rose from my seat, and placed by his side the note in question.

Ferokh Khan refused to receive it, and threw it off the sofa on the ground at my feet; I let it lie there, without paying any further attention to it.

The Persian Ambassador had no verbal communication to make, and after reading your Excellency's message once more to him, to impress it more strongly on his mind, I took my departure, leaving his note on the floor.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY A. CHURCHILL.

Inclosure 4 in No. 169.

Mr. Churchill to Mr. Alison.

(Extract.) *Pera, December* 9, 1856.

MEERZA MALCUM, who followed me out of the Ambassador's room, said that he believed the Ambassador would give the Declaration, but that he was not inclined to remain here any longer.

Inclosure 5 in No. 169.

Mr. Moore to Lord Stratford de Redcliffe.

My Lord, *Pera, December* 10, 1856.

I HAVE the honour to forward herewith, in translation, a written communication sent to me this evening by Ferokh Khan, and which he has requested me to convey to your Excellency.

I have, &c.
(Signed) LIONEL MOORE.

Inclosure 6 in No. 169.

Communication from Ferokh Khan to Lord Stratford de Redcliffe.

(Translation.)

WITH respect to what his Excellency the Ambassador insists so much on my doing, namely, for me to remain at Constantinople, I have to state that I never pledged myself to remain fifty days here, without utility or advantage. What I said was, that if it were possible for me to have an interview with the Ambassador, and we were enabled to change and modify the former ultimatum and the present difficulties, then I should have no objection to remain here at Constantinople.

After, however, I perceived that an interview was not granted, and I found myself, to comply with his Excellency the Ambassador's wishes, obliged, at last, to accept the first ultimatum by a written Declaration, bearing the date of the 30th Rebi-ul-evvel, and his Excellency declared his absence of authority to obviate the pending difficulties, my further stay at Constantinople became useless.

Were the Ambassador to look upon the whole affair with impartiality, he would acknowledge that I have done everything in my power to re-establish friendly relations between the two Governments, and that I have even overstepped my instructions; for, to please the British Government, in compliance

with his Excellency's pressing request, I accepted the very ultimatum that was sent to the Persian Ministers, and had been returned by them.

Now that I am brought to a standstill, and that I have not witnessed that goodwill and countenance on the part of the Ambassador that I expected, I am obliged to bring to his Excellency's recollection the substance of my communication of the 5th of Rebi-ul-sani, and again to state that I shall act up to the terms of that communication, if I do not receive from his Excellency a notification of a nature calculated to make me change my plans.

Inclosure 7 in No. 169.

Lord Stratford de Redcliffe to Mr. Moore.

Sir, *Therapia, December* 11, 1856.

AS the Persian Ambassador's change of mind with respect to waiting at Constantinople for a return of his express to Tehran, appears to leave me no choice but that of acting on my last resolution, I wish to know, before reporting finally home, whether it is his intention to make the reference by express to Tehran, independently of his departure. Not being clear as to this point, and giving credit to his declared desire to prevent hostilities, I desire that you will wait on him once more, and request a distinct answer to the last sentence of the accompanying Memorandum.

Should he, after hearing the contents and understanding the purport of that paper, wish to take notes of it in Persian, he is at liberty to do so.

The question is thus reduced to so plain and narrow a point, that I trust his Excellency will give you his answer at once.

I have, &c.

(Signed) STRATFORD DE REDCLIFFE.

Inclosure 8 in No. 169.

Memorandum inclosed in Lord Stratford's Instructions to Mr. Moore of December 11, 1856.

Therapia, December 11, 1856.

I EXPECT the performance of his Excellency's original offer, by the completion of his Declaration respecting the return of the British Mission, and the reference of the new points to Tehran. With respect to his departure, I might submit the conditions of his stay to my Government, if I could simultaneously state that the previous pledge had been fully redeemed. In that case his Excellency might wait for an answer to my telegraphic message, and go or stay accordingly.

Inclosure 9 in No. 169.

Mr. Moore to Lord Stratford de Redcliffe.

December 11, 1856.

FEROKH KHAN will return an answer to your message to-morrow; but he wishes to know your Excellency's opinion, whether the conditions of his stay will be accepted by Her Majesty's Government. His answer will depend, in a great measure, on the nature of your Excellency's assurance. Ferokh Khan expressed a strong feeling of anxiety that the question between the two Governments should be settled amicably.

Inclosure 10 in No. 169.

Lord Stratford de Redcliffe to Mr. Moore.

December 12, 1856.

TELL Ferokh Khan that as the answer would come from London in two or three days, I cannot take upon myself to anticipate its purport. If he is so well disposed, why does he still hesitate to take the proposed course, which agrees with his own declared ideas, and consults, moreover, his convenience? Ask once more for his definitive answer. I must write home to-night in the one sense or the other. You may read the whole of this to the Ambassador.

Inclosure 11 in No. 169.

Mr. Moore to Lord Stratford de Redcliffe.

Pera, December 12, 1856.

FEROKH KHAN is willing to wait three or four days until your Excellency receives an answer from home to his question of yesterday. Should you not consent to refer home, but insist on his returning a definitive answer at once, he has it ready, and will communicate it without delay. I understand it would be the last communication to your Excellency.

Inclosure 12 in No. 169.

Lord Stratford de Redcliffe to Mr. Moore.

Therapia, December 12, 1856.

TELL Ferokh Khan that I have received his last message, through you, of this day's date, and have nothing to add to mine which preceded it.

Inclosure 13 in No. 169.

Mr. Moore to Lord Stratford de Redcliffe.

Pera, December 13, 1856.

I HAVE communicated your Excellency's message of yesterday's date to Ferokh Khan. He will send his definitive answer, in writing, to-morrow.

No. 170.

Lord Stratford de Redcliffe to the Earl of Clarendon.—(Received January 2, 1857.)

(Extract.) *Constantinople, December* 19, 1856.

ON the receipt of your Lordship's instruction of the 16th instant, I could not fail to perceive that my communications with Ferokh Khan had reached their final term. This conclusion was the more evident as the latest newspapers received from India had published the Governor-General's formal declaration of hostilities against Persia, issued on the 1st of November, under instructions from Her Majesty's Government.

Scarcely had I learned the purport of your Lordship's message, when I was informed that the Persian Ambassador had sent a long written statement to the Embassy. The paper, directed to me, was opened under some erroneous impression, without my knowledge, and I was informed by Mr. Churchill that its contents presented the same objections as were contained in the note which I had returned to his Excellency on a former occasion. Reference was, moreover, made in it to that unaccepted paper; the written declarations which had been

given to me were retracted; and the Ambassador's intention of going away in a few days was announced.

Under these circumstances I directed Mr. Moore, in company with Mr. Consul Churchill, to convey the following message to Ferokh Khan:—The Persian Ambassador's letter to me was opened without my authority or knowledge; it must be returned to him. Past and present circumstances alike preclude me from receiving it. Were his Excellency to accept the whole of our terms, as at present known to him, I would engage that on their being immediately complied with, no further demands would be made. Such, I regret to say, are undoubtedly to be expected in case of any further delay, the more so, as the Indian papers have already published a declaration of war.

Mr. Moore and Mr. Churchill executed my commission to the letter, and left with Ferokh Khan the writing which I had refused to accept. His Excellency declared that he did not consent to its refusal, and took no further notice of my message, repeating, in conclusion, his previous assertions, that he had endeavoured, with all sincerity and zeal, to effect an accommodation of the existing differences. He added some expressions of personal courtesy, and an assurance that he had forwarded your Lordship's demands to his Government. The two gentlemen then came away.

No. 171.

Lord Stratford de Redcliffe to the Earl of Clarendon.—(*Received December* 22.)

(Extract.) *December* 21, 1856.

THE proclamation of war by the Governor-General of India being known, Ferokh Khan declared his engagements to me null and void. He is preparing to leave Constantinople the day after to-morrow.

No. 172.

Mr. Hammond to Consul Stevens.

Sir, *Foreign Office, December* 30, 1856.

I AM directed by the Earl of Clarendon to acknowledge the receipt of your despatch of the 25th October, and I am to convey to you his Lordship's approval of your intention, on your departure from Tehran, and in consideration of there being no member of the French Mission at Tehran, to place British subjects and protégés under the protection of the Turkish Chargé d'Affaires.

Lord Clarendon also approves of your intention to proceed to Bagdad by way of Trebizond, and his Lordship directs me to express to you his concern at the calamity that has befallen you.

I am, &c.

(Signed) E. HAMMOND.

No. 173.

The Earl of Clarendon to Lord Stratford de Redcliffe.

My Lord, *Foreign Office, January* 7, 1857.

WITH reference to your Excellency's despatch of the 19th ultimo, I have to state to you that Her Majesty's Government approve of your proceedings on the occasion of the conclusion of your communications with Ferokh Khan.

I am, &c.

(Signed) CLARENDON.

No. 174.

Sir Justin Sheil to the Earl of Clarendon.

My Lord, *Chester Square, London, January* 20, 1857.

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your Lordship's communication, inquiring, with reference to one of the provisions in the agreement made by the Persian Government relative to Herat, what was the nature of the intercourse maintained between the Shah and the Ruler of that Principality during the life of Yar Mahomed Khan.

The Agreement in question was signed by the Persian Prime Minister, towards the end of January 1853, and I quitted Tehran on my return to England on the ensuing 1st of March. Extreme ill health disabled me, in this short interval, from offering to your Lordship's consideration any comments on the provisions of the document alluded to. It occurs to me there may be some advantage in doing so at the present moment.

In 1852 Persia had made internal commotion in Herat a pretext for interference in the affairs of that Principality. By the engagement contracted in the first stipulation in the Sadr Azim's letter, Persia is prevented from sending troops to Herat to control or repress internal commotion. As far as promises can secure them, a complete freedom is preserved to the Heratees in the management of their own concerns; consequently, when Syed Mahomed Khan, the Ruler of Herat, was murdered, and when his death was succeeded by civil disturbance, the interference of the Persian Government, and the dispatch of troops to Herat, was a breach of this engagement.

Unless in the one single case of invasion by a foreign army, Persia binds herself not to send troops to Herat. The suspicion or the apprehension of attack does not justify any movement, hostile or otherwise. Consequently, her plea of fear of an attack on Herat by Dost Mahomed Khan, when he occupied Candahar, does not save her from a violation of her obligations.

Moreover, the engagement contemplates her advance to Herat only as an ally to repress foreign invasion; whereas, Persia became the invader, and took possession of Herat, in defiance of an explicit promise to abstain from even entering that city, under any circumstances whatever.

In the second point of the Agreement, there is a promise not to interfere "in any manner whatsoever in the internal affairs of Herat." This promise Persia has violated, openly, by overthrowing the existing Government.

With reference to the intercourse maintained between Persia and Yar Mahomed Khan, alluded to in this part of the Agreement, I beg leave to state that this intercourse was restricted to the interchange of presents—a small offering of coin, stamped like Persian coin, to mark the inferiority of the Ruler of Herat—and to the occasional dispatch of Diplomatic Agents, who, however, were not resident. Yar Mahomed Khan was a man of too great energy, and possessed of too much power, to tolerate any interference with his independence.

The letter to the Ruler of Herat, alluded to in the second paragraph, announcing the arrangement made with regard to the affairs of that Principality, was dispatched to Herat, in conjunction with a messenger on my part, in conformity with the specification of the Persian Prime Minister in the same paragraph.

In the third point, the Shah agrees to renounce the "khootbeh," and the issue of the coinage of Herat in his name. These are the great marks of sovereignty in the East. The "khootbeh" means a certain prayer read on Friday, in the Sovereign's name, in the chief mosque. As the Shah had publicly proclaimed, in the "Tehran Gazette," the annexation of Herat to the Persian dominions, this renunciation was desirable.

The interdiction in clause 4, of the permanent residence of a Persian Agent in Herat, was expedient in order to prevent, or at least diminish, the interference of the Persian Government in the internal affairs of that State, and also to weaken the power of the Persian faction in the city, where a considerable portion of the inhabitants is Persian, in blood and in religion.

The allusion to the military aid afforded by the Ruler of Herat to the Shah, has reference to an insurrection in Meshed, in 1851, on which occasion, "of his own free will," Yar Mahomed Khan sent a detachment of troops to aid in the

reduction of that city. By this clause, the Persian Government merely sought to preserve the means of obtaining similar assistance on a future occasion.

With reference to the clause in the fifth paragragh for the release of certain Affghan Khans imprisoned in Persia, I beg to bring to your Lordship's recollection that when the Persians established themselves in Herat in 1852, there was a large party of Affghans disaffected to Syed Mahomed Khan, the Ruler of that State. The chiefs of that party were seized and dispatched to Persia, where many among them were poisoned and otherwise murdered. The remainder were liberated according to this engagement.

In the sixth paragraph your Lordship will observe that the Sadr Azim makes use of these expressions: "The above engagements, with these conditions, have been contracted by Persia;" showing clearly that the obligations are incurred on the part of Persia alone, and that England is free from any promises or engagements.

The concluding part of the same clause contains an intimation that the Persian Government will consider these engagements binding only so long as there shall be no interference on the part of Great Britain. There is no indication by the Persian Prime Minister of the place where interference is to entail the penalty he threatens; still his intention was certainly to designate Herat, and such was understood both by him and by me. That the interference alluded to, means interference in the internal affairs of Herat only, is proved by my letter to the Sadr Azim of the 23rd of January, 1853 (inclosure No. 2 in my despatch of the 30th of January to the Earl of Malmesbury). I beg to quote the language of my letter to the Persian Minister: "What passed between your Excellency and me was this: you required me to engage in writing that Great Britain should not interfere in the internal government of Herat, but I declined to do so for the reasons already stated. I added that I would not reject a document though it should contain a declaration of your Excellency that Persia would not consider the engagement in force, if Great Britain usurped a control over the internal affairs of Herat. But I did not agree to, nor did you even hint at, such terms as your Excellency inserted, that Great Britain was to be excluded from holding any relations whatever, whether secretly or openly, directly or indirectly, with Herat. None of the great Powers of the world have ventured to tell Great Britain that she should hold no relations with an independent State."

The seventh clause of the Sadr Azim's Agreement has little practical signification, and, consequently, did not deserve any opposition from me. It consists of a simple affirmation by that Minister that should Herat be molested by the other Affghan States, and should Persia request England to invite them, by friendly means and advice, to desist, then the British Government "will not object to do so." There is no condition, nor have these words any bearing on the previous portions of the Sadr's promises on the part of his Government.

Finally, thus much is certain, that by this Agreement, and by the discussions which for several months preceded it, the complete independence of Herat; the total evacuation of Herat by every Persian soldier: the exclusion of Persian troops from that territory, except in one single contingency—the city itself, which was the main point, being closed against them under every circumstance; and the control of the Heratees over their own affairs, free from Persian interference, were secured, as far as words could confer security.

Before I conclude I may be allowed to offer a remark on a pretext said to have been alleged by the Persian Ministers, that Her Majesty's Mission having sent messages and letters to Herat, the Agreement was annulled. I am ignorant whether this latter allegation is true or not; but in any case it is impossible to sustain the argument, which may be regarded as one of the pretences usual in Persian negotiations. In the second clause of the Sadr's Agreement, Persia is precluded from interference in the internal affairs of Herat; still this did not, and was not, to prevent her from transmitting messages or letters, or even from sending a Minister occasionally to that Court. And again, in his letter to the Ruler of Herat (Inclosure No. 7 in my despatch of January 28, 1853), the Sadr Azim repeats, that "Persia will not interfere in any manner whatsoever in the internal affairs of Herat." Consequently if the British Mission acted in the same manner, the Persian Government was not entitled to take umbrage. Thus, I dispatched a messenger to Herat, without encountering any opposition from the Persian Ministers, and even in conjunction with them, and with their concur-

rence. To the act itself they made no objection, although the person I selected excited their displeasure: indeed, it is inconceivable how the Persian Ministers can have made this matter a subject of expostulation, for by no means can ordinary intercourse with Herat, by letter, or by message, or by agent, be tortured into interference in the affairs, internal or otherwise, of that Government. It was on the choice of the individual only, that an altercation at the close of the correspondence arose between the Sadr and me. I appointed for this duty a Parseewan or Perso-Affghan, under English protection, and receiving a pension from the English Government. For obvious purposes of his own the Sadr Azim desired that I should dispatch to Herat a native of Persia, but I of course could not consent to any control being exercised over my selection. There never was, at any time, an intention of sending the English Agent at Meshed (a native Persian) to Herat, for, in the first place, he had his own special duties at Meshed to fulfil, and was quite unfit for the performance of the one contemplated at Herat. The allusion to Meshed in the Prime Minister's Agreement, simply meant that that city was to be the rendezvous from whence the two messengers were to proceed in company to Herat, which they accordingly did.

I have, &c.
(Signed) JUSTIN SHEIL.

P.S.—I beg to draw your Lordship's attention to the Sadr Azim's letter to Syed Mahomed Khan (Inclosure No. 7 in my despatch of January 30, 1853), where the nature of the intercourse which formerly subsisted between Persia and Herat is defined.

No. 175.

Mr. Murray to the Earl of Clarendon.—(*Received January* 25, 1857.)

(Extract.) *Bagdad, December* 9, 1856.

I HAVE the honour to inclose herewith a copy of a late number of the Tehran official "Gazette."

The inclosure is a translation of the leading article on the subject of Herat. The siege and capture of Herat are here represented as mere measures of self-defence, rendered necessary by the aggression of Dost Mahomed Khan, in order to prevent that city from falling into his hands; whereas it is well known that the Dost never moved himself or a single regiment a day's journey on the road from Candahar to Herat, nor is there the slightest evidence that he threatened it. Indeed, if the reports that have reached me are correct, Candahar was by no means firmly in his grasp, and troubles of a serious nature had disquieted him in Cabul itself. That Essan Khan, finding his garrison daily growing weaker from symptoms of treachery, and from starvation, may have written to the Dost to entreat his assistance, is, indeed, highly probable, as a drowning man will catch at any straw with a hope to save his life, and the Dost may have written a reply containing encouraging promises; but there the connection between the two terminated; and the seizure of Herat remained what it had been from the first, a simple act of wanton aggression on the part of Persia.

Your Lordship will observe that, in this manifesto, Herat and other places in Affghanistan, taken by the Persians, are stated to be in the possession of the Shah, "the same as the districts of a Persian province." In a later paragraph, after stating that England has not the slightest ground for being offended at what has taken place, the Persian Minister proceeds to give the assurance that he will still give up Herat, if England will guarantee that the three States of Affghanistan will for ever remain independent of each other and of any foreign Power, and in complete obedience or subjection to Persia.

As to the fact that the Persian Commander-in-chief, after capturing Herat, took care that "no personal injury was done to the inhabitants, even to the value of a dinar," I have no certain means of ascertaining its accuracy; but I am

informed that 600 or 700 Soonnees were massacred; and other letters state that all of that faith were under process of expulsion from the city, to be replaced by a population devoted to Persia in religion and interest.

Inclosure in No. 175.

Extract from the Tehran "Gazette" of the 7th Rebbiul-evvel (*November* 6, 1856).

(Translation.)

AMEER DOST MAHOMED KHAN had recourse to many schemes, and used every exertion to obtain possession of Herat, and Colonel Essan Khan also did his utmost to hold out and defend himself in the besieged city of that Principality. These two persons have long been concerting measures together secretly, in the hope that, by some means or other, the hand of the victorious army of the Persian Government might fall short of Herat, and that country be delivered into the possession of Dost Mahomed Khan. So much so, that the last plan which occurred to Dost Mahomed Khan was to send Serdar Sultan Ahmud Khan (the son of Serdar Mahomed Azim Khan, and his own nephew), from Candahar to the camp at Herat, ostensibly to complain of the cruelty of his uncle, but in reality to allay suspicion, and then, aided by Essan Khan, to seize an opportunity of clandestinely effecting an entrance into the town of Herat, for the purpose of taking possession of that city in the name of Dost Mahomed Khan, his uncle. But none of these schemes were attended with success. His Royal Highness the Hesam-i-Sultaneh, Prince Sultan Moorad Meerza, Ruler of the Province of Khorassan, and the commanders and officers of the conquering forces of the Shah-in-Shah, stood their ground with the firmest determination and intrepidity, until, thanks be to the Almighty, to the secret ascendancy of the Holy Faith and the manifest Creed of Islam, and to the imperishable good fortune of His Majesty the Shah-in-Shah (may God protect his dominions!), on the 26th of October the town and citadel of Herat fell into the possession of the victorious troops of the Persian Government. A courier from his Royal Highness reached the capital from Herat in eight days, and placed at the feet of His Majesty, and in the hands of his Highness the Sadr Azim (may his shadow never diminish!) the despatches reporting the victory of Herat. By Royal command, a salute was ordered, the trumpets were sounded, and 110 guns were fired as a triumphal salute.

From the report made by the Kenaum-ed-Dowleh, the Vizier of Khorassan, the particulars are as follows:—

The invincible (Persian) troops having prepared, on all sides of the city, in every respect, the means of assault and victory; the trenches having been carried completely up to the ditch all round the town; the ditch and glacis being entirely in their hands; the operations against the rampart having been commenced, and, in several places, the wall and breastwork having been destroyed by firing mines, and levelled with the ground, Essan Khan and the other chiefs in the city perceived for certain that the time for resistance and procrastination had passed, and that, if they did not voluntarily surrender, they would be defeated, and captured by force; they therefore deputed an intercessor, and implored mercy; and Essan Khan, Abdullah Khan, Jemshedee, Fathoollah, Feeroozkoohee (of the Hezareh tribe), Aman Nuaz Khan, Toorkoman, and Meer Abdul Azeem, all repaired to the Royal camp, and were presented to His Royal Highness. The town and citadel were made over by them to the victorious army, and guards were then placed at the bastions and at the gates.

Herat now is in possession of the Persian Government, the same as one of the districts of a Persian province. Several towns and fortified places, which the Persian Ministers did not consider worthy of mention, and which have not therefore been hitherto named in the "Gazette," such as Ghorian, Ferrah, Sebzar, Lash, Jowein, and others, all formerly the property of Persia, forcibly seized and retained by the Affghans, are now also in the possession of the Persian Government.

The Persian Ministers felt quite certain and positive that, if they had been neglectful, and had not sent their troops to besiege Herat, Essan Khan would immediately have delivered over the city to Dost Mahomed Khan. This was

the reason why they could not withdraw their attention from Herat, and why they were compelled to have their troops there, in order to preserve its territory from being occupied by others, and to maintain the independence of that Principality intact. But the Persian Ministers are at a loss to know on what grounds the British Government, overlooking this manifest and obvious point, seek a pretext (for quarrel) with the Persian Government regarding this rightful act, insinuate that the Persian Ministers have broken their engagement, and say that their intention is to possess themselves of Herat. Whereas, knowing for certain that Essan Khan and Dost Mahomed Khan were both watching for an opportunity, the former to deliver over Herat, and the latter to take possession of it, which is clearly and fully proved from the letters which Dost Mahomed Khan and his son had written to Essan Khan, and which were all made over by that person to the Hesam-i-Sultaneh; the conduct of the Persian Ministers, in besieging Herat, was precisely in accordance with the engagement regarding Herat. It was an observance, not a breach, of treaty. But notwithstanding this, the Persian Ministers are not heedless of the friendship of the British Government. Solely for its sake, they will not object to forego Herat, captured and occupied as it is, provided the British Government furnishes means of assurance in Candahar, Affghanistan, and in Herat itself, to the Persian Ministers, so that they may feel satisfied that each (of these Principalities) will for ever remain in its own state of independence, without being occupied or appropriated* by any other or foreign (Power); and that they will abide by these conditions, the important one of which is obedience to the commands of the Persian Government,† in consequence of her being a near neighbour, and for the (maintenance of the) tranquillity of the Provinces of Khorassan.

In truth, no stronger evidence than this can be adduced of their friendship for the British Government, and, of course, there are great and just Governments in this world who have made just and equitable arrangements for the peace of other Governments, and for all God's creatures, and have never refused to testify to what is just, and give their support to right and fair terms. But if this should be of no use, then let us put our trust in God, the best of guardians, the best of masters, and the best of champions.

Truly, Prince Sultan Moorad Meerza, the Kenaum-ed-Dowleh, Sam Khan Elkhanee, the Brigadiers, Colonels, Lieutenant-Colonels, and each and every one of the other officers, the soldiers, artillerymen, horsemen, and matchlockmen, the Affghans, and Farsee Zehans, who were in attendance in the camp of his Royal Highness, according to their stations, did their utmost in performing service, in risking their lives, and in showing their bravery, loyalty, devotion and patriotism.

"Indication of the greatness of Persia has appeared."

After the victory of Herat, the Prince, agreeably to the instructions he held from the Persian Ministers, accorded such quarter and forgiveness of offenees to all the inhabitants of the city, Affghans, and others, and even to those persons who had fired upon and fought against the Persian troops, as to prevent injury being done to any one, even to the value of a dinar, and that which had passed, whatever it was, was passed over by him in sueh a way as has inspired feelings of security and hope in the minds of all the inhabitants of Herat, and has induced them voluntarily to desire to serve (the Persian Government).

Translated by
(Signed) Ronald F. Thomson.

No. 176.

Mr. Murray to the Earl of Clarendon.—(*Received January* 22, 1857.)

(Extract.) *Bagdad, December* 22, 1856.

I HAVE the honour to inclose herewith, for your Lordship's information, a number of the Tehran "Gazette," which has at last reached this place, with

* The word used literally means to lay hands on, or "subjection;" the word has both meanings.
† Or, that they will remain so under conditions, the most important of which would be obedience to the commands of the Persian Government.

an abstract translation of such paragraphs as have any public or political interest.

The article commences with a recapitulation of circumstances already known concerning the capture of Herat, the only new feature being that the last Governor of that town had, in order to propitiate the Persian Court, jointly with Prince Sultan Moorad Meerza, sent to Tehran a certain number of coins bearing the name and legend of the Shah. As to the statements of the Persian Government in this paragraph, setting forth that the Heratees (who had freely shed their blood in defence of their town, and had lived for months on horseflesh and offal rather than surrender it) now regretted having been so long deprived of the benefits and blessing of Persian rule, I can only say that the Persian Government must have a very high opinion of the credulity of human beings, if they imagine that even the most blind and ignorant of their own countrymen can believe such manifest absurdity.

Inclosure in No. 176.

Substance of an Article in the Tehran "Gazette" of the 28th Rebbiul-evvel (*November* 27, 1856).

(Translation.)

HUSSEIN KHAN, who was some time since dispatched to Herat by the Persian Ministers, and who served during the siege of that place, as well as at its capture, arrived nine days ago at the capital, accompanied by Serdar Mejeed Khan and Ismail Beg, one of Sam Khan Elkhanee's people. He was the bearer of letters from the Prince Governor of Khorassan, Sultan Moorad Meerza, to the Shah, and was introduced to the Royal Presence by the Deputy Master of Ceremonies, when His Majesty was seated on the Peacock Throne in the Hall of Audience, holding a grand levée. After he had stated briefly the contents of the letters he had brought, Meerza Mahomed Tekee, the Lessan-el-Moolk, read them aloud, in the manner customary in Persia, to the Shah, and to all those assembled in His Majesty's presence. One thousand gold pieces of the value of five shillings each, which had been struck in the name of the Shah at Herat, were presented on the part of the Prince Governor of Khorassan, and six hundred of the same coins on the part of Essan Khan, as offerings to His Majesty. They were examined, and approved of by him.

From what the Prince wrote, it would appear that after Herat had surrendered, and a garrison of Persian soldiers had occupied the city, his Royal Highness established order in the town, and general rejoicings ensued. The Affghans of Herat perceiving the kindness and attention shown to them by the Prince, and finding that no one was allowed to molest them in the slightest degree, felt the greatest remorse at having permitted themselves to be led astray for such a length of time by interested parties, suffering thereby great loss and destruction of life and property, and at having deprived themselves of such blessings and benefits.

The Affghans believed that bigotry and ill-feeling still existed between the members of the Sheeah and Soonnee sects of Mahomedanism, and that on this account they would suffer severe wrongs at the hands of the besieging army; but they forgot that both Sheeahs and Soonnees are equally followers of the Mahomedan creed, and that although there are some trifling differences in their tenets, still they are not the less brothers in faith. As the order issued by His Majesty the Shah, and published some ago in this "Gazette," enjoining the people of both sects, on pain of punishment, to avoid religious disputes, and treat each other with perfect forbearance and toleration, seems not to have reached these places, the article in question is now republished as follows, the same, word for word, as it formerly appeared, so that people may not suppose that it applied to that particular period only, and that it does not continue in force at the present moment.

No. 177.

The Earl of Clarendon to Lord Cowley.

(Extract.) *Foreign Office, January* 27, 1857.

IF overtures are made to your Excellency by the Persian Ambassador, you will express your readiness to transmit to London any written proposals coming direct to your Excellency from Ferokh Khan which may be likely to lead to the restoration of peace; and if Ferokh Khan expresses a desire to see you, you will grant him a private audience; but you will make him clearly understand that you have no powers or instructions to negotiate with him.

No. 178.

Lord Cowley to the Earl of Clarendon.—(Received January 29.)

(Extract.) *Paris, January* 28, 1857.

CAPTAIN LYNCH, of the Indian navy, called at the Embassy yesterday, and finding me out, made the following communication to Mr. Atlee. He had, he said, been invited by Ferokh Khan to call upon him, and having answered the summons had, in the course of conversation, been requested by the Ambassador to state to me that his Excellency was desirous of seeing me; that he greatly regretted the hostilities which had broken out between his country and Great Britain; and that he thought that the difference between the two Governments might be easily and satisfactorily arranged if I would grant him an interview.

I requested Captain Lynch to call upon me this morning. Before seeing Captain Lynch I received your Lordship's despatch of yesterday's date, in which your Lordship has laid down the rules I am to observe in case any overtures should be made to me by Ferokh Khan. I therefore requested Captain Lynch to see Ferokh Khan, and to state to him from me, that I had no instructions which would permit me to enter into communication with him, but that if he had any communication to make to Her Majesty's Government with a view of terminating hostilities between Great Britain and Persia, I would request him to put it in writing, when I would, if I considered it satisfactory, transmit it to London; but that I must fairly inform him that it would be useless to send, and, indeed, I could not be the channel of conveying, propositions at variance with the demands made by Her Majesty's Government and already known to him.

I authorized Captain Lynch to add that if it would be a satisfaction to Ferokh Khan to see me, and to hear from my own lips a repetition of my answer to his message, I would not object to receiving him in private, but in that case I must beg that he might be accompanied by Captain Lynch alone.

Captain Lynch said that such had been the proposition made by Ferokh Khan himself.

No. 179.

The Earl of Clarendon to Lord Cowley.

My Lord, *Foreign Office, January* 30, 1857.

HER Majesty's Government approve your Excellency's proceedings and language, as reported in your despatch of the 28th instant, on the subject of the request made by Ferokh Khan for an interview with your Excellency on the Persian question.

I am, &c.

(Signed) CLARENDON.

No. 180.

Lord Cowley to the Earl of Clarendon.—(*Received February* 3.)

(Extract.) *Paris, February* 1, 1857.

FEROKH KHAN having persisted in his desire to see me, and having reiterated, through Captain Lynch, his belief that an interview between us might lead to the renewal of friendly relations between Great Britain and Persia, I felt it my duty to receive him, and accordingly appointed 3 o'clock this afternoon for his visit. He came accompanied by his interpreter, and, at my request, by Captain Lynch.

After the exchange of compliments required by eastern etiquette, Ferokh Khan expressed in general terms his conviction that, although hostilities were waging between Great Britain and Persia, there was no intention on the part of Her Majesty's Government to inflict permanent injury on his country. He could not but hope, therefore, that he might be the means of restoring the amicable relations which had been so unhappily disturbed between the two Governments. He professed that the English alliance was, and always had been, the basis of his own policy, and he asserted that the maintenance of it was equally the policy of the Shah and of his Government.

I replied that Ferokh Khan was right in supposing that Her Majesty's Government had no wish to inflict permanent injury on Persia. Their desire was to see Persia strong, flourishing, and independent. They had been driven reluctantly into this war, in consequence of the conduct of the Persian Government. It was, therefore, in the power of the Persian Government to apply the remedy to the evil which they had themselves created.

When we had advanced thus far, Ferokh Khan did not appear inclined to continue the conversation. He thanked me for the kind way in which I had received him, and expressed the hope that I would permit him to return on some future day, when he would enter at large upon the questions in dispute between the British and Persian Governments, and offer such explanations as, he trusted, would lead to the restoration of peace.

I said to Ferokh Khan that I was ready either to listen to him at the moment, or to leave it to him to fix some other time. I begged him, however, to recollect that I had no instructions to treat with him, and that I could do no more than convey to Her Majesty's Government any message that he might like to entrust to me, provided I considered the terms of it to be of a satisfactory nature. I reminded him that negotiations had been broken off between Her Majesty's Ambassador and himself at Constantinople, in consequence of his not having sufficient powers to treat on all the points insisted on by the British Government; and I said that it would be useless to attempt to renew communications with Her Majesty's Government unless he was authorized and prepared to concede those points. Nor indeed, I continued, could I say that conditions which had been put forward before hostilities had commenced would now be considered sufficient, though it stood to reason that the sooner the terms asked for by Her Majesty's Government were conceded, the more likely it was that they would not be increased. If, after hearing this, Ferokh Khan determined on making any statement to Her Majesty's Government through me, I must beg him, I said, to be clear, frank, and straightforward in his dealings; that, as far as I was concerned, I should be so with him.

Ferokh Khan, upon this, entered at once upon the points on which he had refused to treat at Constantinople, in the order in which I have now the honour to bring them before your Lordship.

First, then, he said that the Persian Government were ready to retire from Herat, to engage never again to attack that city, or to commit any aggression on Affghanistan, and even to refer matters of dispute that might arise with the Affghans to the consideration of Her Majesty's Government, provided the latter promised their good offices to prevent the Affghans from attacking Persia. Subsequently, when I summed up the conversation which had passed between us, Ferokh Khan was less explicit on this latter point. He said that Persia never could forego the right of repelling and punishing any tribes which might violate or disturb the Persian frontier. When, however, I explained to him that

Her Majesty's Government, in desiring to be taken as mediators in all matters of dispute between Persia and Affghanistan, had no other object in view than the prevention of the renewal of the present state of things; that Her Majesty's Government had too great an interest in the welfare of Persia to encourage or countenance any attack on Persia, but that they were equally determined that Persia should not disturb the existing state of the tribes on her eastern frontier; and that to agree to British mediation would not only not be derogatory to the dignity of Persia, but would be essentially to her interests; Ferokh Khan intimated that he would reconsider the question.

I proceed now to the second point adverted to by Ferokh Khan, namely, the settlement of disputed claims on the Persian Government.

He said that his Government would undertake to settle immediately all claims of *bonâ fide* British subjects, or of others acknowledged by the Persian Government to be under the protection of Great Britain; but he added, that the conferring of protection had been so much abused by British Agents, that protection would cover so many false claims of Persian subjects, his Government must refuse to enter into any engagement not limited as I have stated above. While on this point, and again when treating of that regarding the Consuls, Ferokh Khan entered largely into the way in which, according to his opinion, the privilege of protection had been abused.

I observed, in reply, that I was quite certain that, if the case was as he represented, he would find Her Majesty's Government ready to meet, in a fair spirit, that of Persia, to remedy an abuse of which the latter had a right to complain. But we had, I said, now to deal with the past. It would be difficult now to withdraw protection from those who had enjoyed it, if not with the consent, at all events with the tacit acquiescence, of the Persian Government. I said, further, that I was convinced that Her Majesty's Government had no intention of insisting on the settlement of claims without examination; and that means might be found, by a Mixed Commission or otherwise, to come to a satisfactory conclusion of all these affairs.

Ferokh Khan passed, in the third place, to the question of Consuls. He said that the utmost to which his Government would consent was, that Her Majesty's Government should have leave to appoint a Consul wherever the Russian Government appointed one.

Her Majesty's Government, I said, would never consent to be placed, in Persia, on a less advantageous footing than Russia. Russia had the privilege of sending Consuls where she pleased, and the same privilege must be accorded to Her Majesty's Government. With regard to the proposal made by Ferokh Khan, that Her Majesty's Government should merely have the right of placing a Consul where Russia had one, I observed that Her Majesty's Government would never accept a proposal so derogatory to the dignity of Great Britain.

Ferokh Khan said, finally, that he would look again into his instructions, to ascertain whether he could make any further concession on this point.

With regard to the arrangement with the Imaum of Muscat, respecting Bender Abbas, to which Ferokh Khan next adverted, he said that the wishes of Her Majesty's Government had already been complied with, and that a perfect understanding now existed between the Shah and the Imaum.

The question of the dismissal of the Sadr Azim, Ferokh Khan had reserved to the last. He said that he supposed that the intention of the British Government, in asking for the Minister's dismissal, was to give a warning to other Ministers who might conduct themselves ill; but that in this case the Sadr Azim had acted entirely under the orders of the Shah. The Minister, therefore, ought not to be punished for obeying his Sovereign's order. He hoped that, under these circumstances, Her Majesty's Government would desist from their demand for the dismissal of the Sadr Azim. I asked Ferokh Khan whether I was to understand that he was speaking in the Shah's name, that is, whether the Shah made the retention of his Minister a personal request on Her Majesty's Government, or whether Ferokh Khan was simply expressing his own opinions. Ferokh Khan replied that he had spoken throughout in the name of his Sovereign.

Ferokh Khan having stated that he had nothing more to say, I went through the results of our conversation, asking him, however, beforehand, whether, in addition to the engagements into which he professed himself to be now ready to enter, he abided by the other conditions to which he had agreed at

Constantinople, and whether he was disposed to reduce the whole to writing. To both these questions he answered in the affirmative.

I put two other questions to Ferokh Khan: first, whether he had full powers to treat all the questions which we had passed in review; secondly, whether he did not think it a work of supererogation to commence negotiations at this distance from the seat of war, and whether it was not probable that Plenipotentiaries would have been sent from Tehran to Bushire to treat for peace.

To the first of these questions Ferokh Khan replied that his powers were unlimited, and that he was only guided by his instructions in the use of them. To the second he answered, that he had news from Tehran thirty-seven days old, written after the knowledge that Bushire had fallen, and that no hint was given of the intention to send Plenipotentiaries to treat at Bushire.

On taking leave of Ferokh Khan, I said that whenever I received your Lordship's answer to this communication, I would return his friendly visit.

I cannot conclude this despatch without recording the obligations under which Her Majesty's Government are to Captain Lynch, who acted as interpreter throughout the interview, and who seems thoroughly conversant with the Persian language. It would give me great pleasure to be allowed to convey to him your Lordship's thanks.

No. 181.

The Earl of Clarendon to Lord Cowley.

(Extract.) *Foreign Office, February* 3, 1857.

I HAVE received your Excellency's despatch of the 1st instant, giving an account of an interview which you had on that day with Ferokh Khan, the Persian Ambassador, and I have to express to your Excellency the entire approval of Her Majesty's Government of the language which you held, and of the course which you pursued, on that occasion.

Your Excellency will state to Ferokh Khan that you have reported to Her Majesty's Government what passed between you, and that you are authorized to say, that if Ferokh Khan is satisfied that the powers which he holds from the Shah, and the instructions under which he acts, are sufficiently ample to admit of his coming to an understanding with Her Majesty's Government on the bases with which he is already acquainted; and if he is prepared to take upon himself the responsibility of coming to England in order to communicate directly with the British Government, he will be courteously received, and his communications be attentively listened to; but you will not disguise from him that if the powers which he holds should prove to be insufficient, he must be prepared for the refusal of Her Majesty's Government to proceed further in the business.

Your Excellency will also make Ferokh Khan clearly comprehend that even should he succeed in coming to an understanding with Her Majesty's Government, he must not expect that the military operations of the British forces will be suspended until the Shah shall have ratified the engagement into which Ferokh Khan may have entered. You will, however, assure him that Great Britain is still animated by friendly feelings towards Persia, and will see with pleasure the restoration of the relations between the two Courts upon their former footing of cordiality.

Your Excellency will convey to Captain Lynch the thanks of Her Majesty's Government for the assistance which he has afforded in your communication with Ferokh Khan.

No. 182.

Lord Cowley to the Earl of Clarendon.—(Received February 7.)

(Extract.) *Paris, February* 5, 1857.

AFTER receiving your Lordship's despatch of the 3rd February, I sent to Ferokh Khan to say that, in fulfilment of the promise which I had made him, to return his visit, whenever I should be in possession of the answer of Her

Majesty's Government to the overture which he had made me, I requested him to appoint a time for receiving me; and he having named an hour in the afternoon of yesterday, I went to him, accompanied by Captain Lyneh. Ferokh Khan's own interpreter, Meerza Malcum Khan, was likewise present at the interview.

In compliance with your Lordship's instructions, I stated to the Persian Ambassador that Her Majesty's Government considered his declaration to me so far satisfactory that if he felt that he had powers to negotiate a Treaty of Peace with Her Majesty's Government, upon the bases already known to him, and would take upon himself the responsibility of coming to England in order to communicate directly with the British Government, he would be courteously received, and his communications listened to.

Ferokh Khan inquired immediately what I meant by the bases already known to him. I replied that I considered them to be: first, the terms which had been agreed to between himself and Her Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople, respecting the retreat of the Persian troops from Herat and Affghanistan, and the ceremonies to be observed on Mr. Murray's return to Tehran; and, secondly, the conditions which he had not been empowered to discuss at Constantinople, but which he had passed in review with me at our first interview.

Ferokh Khan then observed, that he regretted that Her Majesty's Government had not empowered me to discuss these matters with him. He asked whether it would not be possible to sign at Paris a document specifying the exact demands of Her Majesty's Government, if he could agree to them.

After some further conversation, he asked me to tell him as a friend what I recommended him to do. I replied that, without a better knowledge of the instructions under which he was acting, it was impossible for me to offer advice. If he would accept the terms on which Her Majesty's Government were determined to insist, I should strongly recommend him to undertake the journey to London. If, on the other hand, he merely meditated an escape from those conditions, in honesty I must tell him that he would fail, and would do better to remain where he was.

I then again inquired as to the nature of Ferokh Khan's powers, and he again assured me that they were ample, offering, at the same time, to show them to me. They were shortly afterwards produced, and, as a copy has since been furnished to me, I inclose it, together with a translation. Your Lordship will observe that the powers are dated before the departure of the Ambassador from Tehran; that they enable him to discuss the questions of Herat and Affghanistan, and the differences which have arisen between Persia and Great Britain. I inquired whether he should consider himself at liberty, under those powers, to conclude a Treaty of Commerce. He replied in the affirmative, and gave me to understand that he had other powers than those, both from the Shah himself and from the Sadr Azim, but he probably meant that he had instructions.

I explained likewise that military operations would be continued until any Treaty, signed by him, had received the ratification of the Shah.

A somewhat lengthened conversation terminated by Ferokh Khan thanking me for the communication which I had made him, expressing, at the same time, his sense of the kindness with which I had treated him. He said that he would reflect on my proposal, and that I should hear from him again in a day or two.

Inclosure in No. 182.

Full Powers from the Shah to Ferokh Khan.

(Translation.)

AS it has always been the earnest desire of our Gracious Majesty, the Shah-in-Shah, &c., of Persia, to increase and strengthen the bonds of friendship and alliance, as well as to remove every source of doubt connected with the British Government, which always has been, and is, the ancient friend of Persia; therefore, agreeably to the issue of this auspicious power to his Excellency Ferokh Khan, our Chief Keeper of the Robes, Ambassador Extraordinary of the Persian Government, decorated with the Royal Portrait ornamented with

diamonds, and also with the Cordon, we have given him special and full powers (that he should discuss*) with the Ministers of that Government (Great Britain) the circumstances connected with the rupture of relations by the Minister Plenipotentiary (Mr. Murray) of that Government (England), and also concerning the affair of Herat, and also an arrangement of the affairs of Affghanistan; every promise and agreement, and arrangement, that he shall make will be agreed to and ratified by our Majesty with the greatest satisfaction; and in the fulfilment of these (arrangements), in which will result contentment to the Ministers of both parties, whatever is necessary to friendship will be observed.

Written in the month of Shawal, 1272.

No. 183.

The Earl of Clarendon to Lord Cowley.

(Extract.) *Foreign Office, February* 6, 1857.

HER Majesty's Government have fully considered your Excellency's report of your further communications with Ferokh Khan, contained in your despatch of the 5th instant, and they entirely approve the course which your Excellency has adopted in carrying out the instructions conveyed to you in my despatch of the 3rd instant.

The result of your communications with the Persian Ambassador inclines Her Majesty's Government to hope that an arrangement may be entered into with him by which friendly relations may be established between England and Persia.

Your Excellency will explain to Ferokh Khan that wherever the nature of the subject admits of their so doing, Her Majesty's Government are willing to undertake towards Persia engagements corresponding with those which they require Persia to undertake towards themselves; that Her Majesty's Government are prepared, if other Powers in amity with Persia agree to do so, to renounce the right of protecting Persian subjects, except such as may be actually in their service; and that Her Majesty's Government, although put to great expense by the disregard which the Persian Government has shown for its engagements in regard to Herat, asks no pecuniary indemnity of any kind.

No. 184.

Lord Cowley to the Earl of Clarendon.—(Received February 10.)

(Extract.) *Paris, February* 8, 1857.

I HAD the honour to receive, yesterday morning, your Lordship's despatch of the 6th instant.

Previously to receiving that despatch, Ferokh Khan had requested to see me again on the subject of the invitation which I had conveyed to him in the name of Her Majesty's Government, to proceed to London if his instructions permitted him to do so, and if his powers were sufficiently ample to allow him to conclude a Treaty on the basis already known to him, and I had fixed Saturday afternoon to receive him. He came at the appointed hour, unattended by any one of his own suite, but accompanied by Captain Lynch.

His Excellency expressed uncertainty as to his intentions. He said that his position was most embarrassing; that he was alone in a strange land, at a great distance from his own country, without any one to whom he could turn for advice; therefore he said that he had again come to apply form me. I told Ferokh Khan, in reply, that I could but repeat what I had said to him before; but that I was willing to enter with him at once into such further discussions as the present state of the questions at issue rendered necessary.

After some little hesitation, Ferokh Khan decided that he would remain at Paris for the present, reserving, however, to himself, the privilege of going to England hereafter, should he deem it advisable.

* These words are omitted in the Persian, though implied in the context.

I then proposed to put in writing, and to send to him, the conditions of Her Majesty's Government. I said that I should make them as complete as possible, so as to avoid all possibility of misunderstanding in future.

No. 185.

The Earl of Clarendon to Lord Cowley.

My Lord, *Foreign Office, February* 10, 1857.

HER Majesty's Government entirely approve the language held by your Excellency to Ferokh Khan, as reported in your despatch of the 8th instant, with regard to the negotiations for peace with Persia.

I am, &c.

(Signed) CLARENDON.

No. 186.

Lord Cowley to the Earl of Clarendon.—(Received March 5.)

(Extract.) *Paris, March* 4, 1857.

I HAVE the satisfaction to transmit herewith to your Lordship a Treaty of Peace between the Queen and the Shah of Persia, signed this day by the Persian Plenipotentiary and myself.

No. 187.

The Earl of Clarendon to Lord Cowley.

(Extract.) *Foreign Office, March* 6, 1857.

I HAVE received your Excellency's despatch of the 4th instant, inclosing the Treaty of Peace between Her Majesty and the Shah of Persia, signed on that day by your Excellency and the Persian Ambassador.

It is my agreeable duty to convey to your Excellency the entire and cordial approval of Her Majesty's Government of the remarkable ability and judgment with which you have conducted the negotiation with the Persian Ambassador, which various circumstances combined to render difficult, and to the successful issue of which the patience, moderation, and firmness displayed by your Excellency so essentially contributed.

No. 188.

Lord Cowley to the Earl of Clarendon.—(Received March 12.)

(Extract.) *Paris, March* 4, 1856.

I HAVE the honour to inclose herewith the translation of a note which his Excellency addressed to me on the 2nd instant, together with a copy of my reply, dated the 3rd, relative to the abandonment by Her Majesty's Government of certain of the conditions which had been originally put forward as those on which peace with Persia might be restored.

The conclusions at which I have arrived with Ferokh Khan on these points are the result of much discussion; but I have thought it expedient, in order to avoid the possibility of future difficulties, that they should now be consigned to writing. Hence the exchange of notes to which this despatch refers.

The original note of Ferokh Khan is likewise inclosed.

Inclosure 1 in No. 188.

Ferokh Khan to Lord Cowley.

(Translation.) 5 *Rejeb*, A.H. 1273. (*March* 2, 1857.)

His Excellency, the abode of greatness, the support of friends, the kind, the revered.

FROM the communications which have hitherto taken place, it is evident that the British Ministry consider his Excellency, &c., the Grand Vizier of Persia to be an obstacle to the friendship of the two exalted States of Persia and England; whereas everything that he has hitherto done has been by the command of His Majesty the King, his benefactor. His Majesty, my benefactor, however, has not considered the incidents which have occurred as being contrary to the Treaty which is the basis of the friendship between the two States. For this reason His Majesty has specially commissioned me to explain the real state of this matter to the British Ministry, and to assure them that the continuation of his Excellency in the office of Grand Vizier will not be detrimental to the friendship of the two States, but that it will, on the contrary, be the very best means of preserving and confirming that friendship. I therefore feel certain that the British Ministry will no longer insist upon a change in the Grand Viziriate.

As regards any compensation to the inhabitants of Herat, it may be said that since the marching of the Persian army in that direction was solely caused by the obstinacy of those very inhabitants of Herat; and as the commissioning an army was not intended as an act of enmity against them, but simply for their protection, therefore no injury whatever happened to the inhabitants of Herat from the Persian troops, since each month remittances of cash have been made to Herat from the capital, and from Khorassan, for the wants of that army; and at no time, either before or after the conquest of Herat, did any molestation or injury happen to the inhabitants; on the contrary, they have been the objects of every sort of consideration and kindness. Besides this, it has been fully ascertained, since my departure from Constantinople, that His Majesty, my benefactor, after the conquest of Herat, exercised every species of favour and benevolence towards them, so much so that, in the view of encouraging the agriculture and cultivation of the country, he has sent considerable sums of money thither.

I am quite sure, that upon the representation of these my sincere explanations, perfect confidence will be felt that the inhabitants of Herat, instead of suffering injury and loss, have derived great benefit and advantage therefrom; and that, in consequence, the British Ministry will not renew the propositions and discussions entered upon at Constantinople.

In respect of Bender Abbas, as I have already often mentioned, the negotiations between the Persian Government and the Imaum of Muscat have been completely satisfactory to both parties. And for this reason, the renewal of said negotiations would lead to no other result than to be the source of fresh difficulties.

It is also evident that, according to the agreement made at Constantinople, and according to the paper given to the Persian Government by Meerza Hashem, in respect to his renouncing the asylum of the British Mission, he will hereafter have no connexion with the British Government, but will be, as formerly, in the service of the Persian Government.

Inclosure 2 in No. 188.

Lord Cowley to Ferokh Khan.

Paris, March 3, 1857.

THE Undersigned, Her Britannic Majesty's Ambassador at the Court of the Emperor Napoleon, has had the honour to receive the note which his Excellency Ferokh Khan, Ambassador from the King of Persia at the same Court, addressed him on the 2nd instant.

The object of Ferokh Khan is to induce Her Majesty's Government to

desist from certain of the conditions, which had been communicated to him at Constantinople, as those on which Her Majesty's Government would be ready to make peace.

The conditions he mentions are that respecting the dismissal of the Sadr Azim, that concerning an indemnity to be paid by the Persian Government to the Heratees, and that relating to the mediation of Her Majesty's Government for the settlement of the differences which had arisen between the King of Persia and the Imaum of Muscat, respecting the tenure by the latter of Bender Abbas.

The Undersigned comprehends from the note of his Excellency Ferokh Khan, coupled with the verbal explanations which the Undersigned has had the honour to receive from his Excellency, that the King of Persia makes it a personal request of the British Government, that the first of these conditions should not be insisted upon; that with regard to the second, his Excellency has learnt that since the engagement which he contracted at Constantinople, considerable sums of money had already been sent by the King of Persia to Herat, and that consequently more profit than loss has accrued to the inhabitants of that town from its occupation by Persian troops, and he hopes, therefore, that he may be released from the promises which he made on this point at Constantinople. With respect to the mediation of Great Britain in the matter of Bender Abbas, his Excellency Ferokh Khan observes, that the question is already satisfactorily settled between the parties interested, and that consequently no mediation is necessary.

The Undersigned cannot but regret that his Excellency Ferokh Khan should not have repeated in writing that which he has so often given the Undersigned to understand, while conversing on these matters, namely, that if these conditions were persisted in by Her Majesty's Government and agreed to by the Persian Government, the King of Persia's dignity and independence would be greatly compromised in the eyes of his subjects, because it is for this reason that Her Majesty's Government have determined on desisting from them, being most unwilling by insisting on obnoxious stipulations, not absolutely necessary to the attainment of peace, to do aught that would either influence the sentiments of the Persians towards their Sovereign, or injure the power and welfare of the Persian dominions. It is the desire, as it is the policy, of Her Majesty's Government, that Persia should be strong, prosperous, and independent, and they cannot give a greater proof of their sincerity in this respect than by the moderation of their demands, while in possession of a valuable portion of the Persian territory.

The Undersigned has, then, the pleasure to inform his Excellency Ferokh Khan that Her Majesty's Government will not insist on his acceptance of the three conditions to which his Excellency's note refers; and with regard to the future position of Meerza Hashem, which is likewise alluded to by his Excellency, the Undersigned has the honour to assure him that if Meerza Hashem has, as is reported, renounced the service of Her Majesty's Mission at Tehran, Her Majesty's Mission on its return to Tehran will not attempt to exercise any protection over him.

The Undersigned, &c. (Signed) COWLEY.

No. 189.

The Earl of Clarendon to Lord Cowley.

My Lord, *Foreign Office, March* 14, 1857.

IN reply to your Excellency's despatch of the 4th instant, forwarding copies of the correspondence which you had with Ferokh Khan relative to the withdrawal of certain conditions of peace by Her Majesty's Government, I have to state to your Excellency that Her Majesty's Government entirely approve of your having committed to writing the discussion with the Persian Ambassador upon this subject.

I am, &c.
(Signed) CLARENDON.

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